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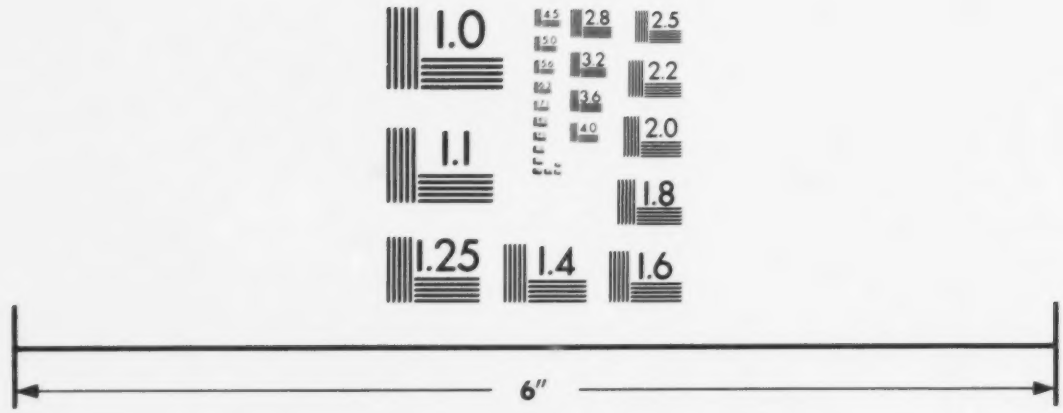
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FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 165 *24 August 1983*

ARGENTINA

Multiparty Group Meets, Adopts Decisions B 1
Railroad Workers End 24-Hour Nationwide Strike B 1
PRC Foreign Trade Mission Arrives for Talks B 1
Energy Secretary Says No Fixed Date for Yacyreta B 2
Havana Cites Support for Chilean Struggle B 2
Peronism Support Noted B 2
Briefs: 1983 Fishing Take B 2

BOLIVIA

Cabinet Shuffle Postponed Indefinitely C 1
Public Unrest Erupts Over Transport Fare Hike C 1
Unrest in Outlying Cities C 1
Briefs: Panamanian Ambassador Presents Credentials; Ambassador Resigns; OAS Conventions Ratified; Customs Director Dismissed; Tin Exports C 2

BRAZIL

Source Says Figueiredo Does Not Plan Reelection D 1
Briefs: Police Seize Cocaine Shipments; Cocaine Seized in Rio; Trade With Iran D 1

CHILE

Seguel Evaluates Meeting With Interior Minister E 1
Finance Minister Discusses Economic Plans E 2
[COSAS 11 Aug]
Central Bank President Announces Credit Lines E 11

COLOMBIA

Lloreda Criticizes U.S., USSR Policies in C.A. F 1
FARC Seeks Talks With President, Peace Body F 1
[EL TIEMPO 19 Aug]
Saravena Mayor, Police Inspector Killed F 2
Betancur's October Travel Plans Specified F 2
[EL SIGLO 16 Aug]

ECUADOR

Police Say Museum Theft Politically Motivated G 1
CEPE To Sell Crude to Austria, Raises Price G 1
Briefs: Japan Grants Loan; New CEPE Manager Named G 1

PARAGUAY

Citizens Demand Freedom for Political Prisoners H 1
[ABC COLOR 18 Aug]
Briefs: International Reserves; Taiwan Defense Minister Decorated; Venezuelan Trade Delegation H 1

PERU

Foreigners Investigated for Terrorist Activities J 1
Government Asks Media To Report News Accurately J 1
Havana Cites Interior Minister J 2
Government Demands Opening of Andean Market J 2
Havana Reports on Rebel Activity in Cuzco J 2
Briefs: Uruguayan, Danish Ambassadors Accredited J 2

URUGUAY

National Protest Day Prepared for 25 August K 1
Briefs: Inflation, Cost of Living International Reserves K 1

MEXICO

Parties Voice Support for Puerto Rican Independence M 1
[EL UNIVERSAL 20 Aug]
Bond Issue To Compensate Former Bank Shareholders M 2
Bankers Study Compensation M 2
Briefs: New PSUM Officials M 2

PANAMA

Paredes Discusses Political Views, Policy Issues N 1
PRD on Paredes' Candidacy, Parties' Alliance N 2
Escalona on Liberal Support for Arias Candidacy N 4
Opposition Party Opposes Electoral Law Changes N 5
[YA 22 Aug]
Need for National Guard To Stay Apolitical Stressed N 5
[LA PRENSA 23 Aug]
Corregimiento Representatives Scored for Abuses N 6
[CRITICA 18 Aug]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks P 1

EL SALVADOR

Magana Comments on Contadora, Regional Issues P 2
Guatemalan Foreign Minister Visits, Briefs Press P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 23 Aug]
Deputy Foreign Minister on Nicaragua, Guerrillas P 4
[Tegucigalpa]
Guerrilla Attacks, Power Outages Reported P 5
Army Destroys Rebel Camp on El Cumbo Hill P 6
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 23 Aug]
FMLN Claims Sabotage of Railway Bridge [Radio Venceremos] P 6

GUATEMALA

Foreign Minister Returns; Deputy Takes Office P 7
Radio Editorial Attacks Honduras' Paz Barnica P 7

HONDURAS

Paz Barnica: Detente 'Emerging' in Region P 8
Powerful Bomb Rocks San Pedro Sula 23 August P 9
Cinchoneros Claim Responsibility [Managua] P 9
Salvadoran Plane Said To Bomb Border Area P 10

NICARAGUA

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Talks With D'Escoto P 10
More on Visit P 11
Spanish Embassy Protests Derisive Publication P 11
LA PRENSA Not Published Due to Censorship P 12
Social Christian Party Leader on Parties Law P 12
Somozist Camp Destroyed; 30 Rebels Killed P 13
Commander Torres Reports Increased Fighting P 13
Criticizes Big Pine II [Havana] P 14
Havana Reports 'Murder' of Peasant Family P 14
'15 September' Reports on 'General Offensive' P 14

CUBA

President's Speech to American Legion Scored Q 1
U.S. Caribbean Exercises 'Escalating' Military Presence Q 1
U.S. Production, Use of Chemical Weapons Condemned Q 1
Polish Press Welcomes Foreign Minister Malmierca Q 2
Warsaw Reportage on Visit [cross-reference] Q 3
Romanian Envoy Reads National Holiday Statement Q 3
Home-Made Antitank Mine Reportedly Developed Q 5
Vilma Espin Discusses Role of Women in Defense Q 6

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

SUNDAY ADVOCATE Scores Press Control Proposal S 1

GRENADA

Bishop Assails 'Insensitive Arms Buildup' S 1
Says Cuban, Soviet Meddling U.S. 'Myth' S 2

JAMAICA

Contadora Group Peace Effort Support Reaffirmed S 3
[THE DAILY GLEANER 12 Aug]
Seaga Departs on Private Visit to U.S. S 4
To Visit Dominican Republic S 5
Citizens Arrested for Illegal Emigration Try S 5

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

Reformation Party Sweeps Legislative Assembly S 5

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Officials Deny Libyan Plane Permission To Land S 6
Suspect Cargo Arms for Sandinists S 6

SURINAME

Brazilian Influence Increasing, Cuban Declining U 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Broadcasters Protest Anti-Cuba Program Ban V 1

GUYANA

Burnham Meets With Cuban Delegation to PNC V 1

MULTIPARTY GROUP MEETS, ADOPTS DECISIONS

PY240202 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1212 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (DYN) -- The Multiparty Group has decided to ask the government to sign a peace treaty with Chile and to "lift the restrictions on former constitutional President Maria Martinez Peron's political and civic rights."

The first decision was adopted through the general consensus of the members who participated in the meeting, while the second was adopted at the request of the Justicialist Party. Justicialist Party Vice President Deolindo Bittel said he was "satisfied" with the request.

The decisions were adopted during a nearly 2-hour meeting held yesterday by the Multiparty Group members. Raul Alfonsin, the newly appointed president of the Radical Party, was present for the first time.

During the meeting, the Multiparty Group also decided to create a commission to draw up measures to face the national socioeconomic situation, measures which the Multiparty Group will ask the government to implement. Similarly, another commission will study a joint position regarding the amnesty law.

The meeting, which was held in the central offices of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), was attended by Raul Alfonsin, his predecessor Carlos Contin, and Enrique Vanoli on behalf of the UCR; Deolindo Bittel and Nestor Carrasco for the Justicialist Party; Arturo Frondizi, Rodolfo Frigerio and Carlos Zafforen for the Integration and Development Movement; and by Francisco Cerro, Martin Dip, Basilio Serrano, and others for the Christian Democratic Party.

RAILROAD WORKERS END 24-HOUR NATIONWIDE STRIKE

PY231351 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] All six urban railroad lines have resumed normal services with no delays after yesterday's 24-hour strike. The control offices of the Belgrano, Mitre, Urquiza, Roca, Sarmiento, and San Martin railroads have reported that all local trains are running on regular schedules, and that they resumed services between 0000 and 0100.

PRC FOREIGN TRADE MISSION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY202340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Aug (NA) -- A PRC mission headed by Jia Shi, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, has arrived in this capital and will remain here until 27 August to attend the third meeting on economic and commercial cooperation.

The members of the PRC mission will meet with several government officials of the Economy and Public Works Ministries and of the Commerce and Agriculture Secretariats.

The third meeting on economic and commercial cooperation is sponsored by the Commerce Secretariat, and the meeting of the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Commission is sponsored by the Planning Secretariat.

The members of the PRC mission were welcomed at Ezeiza International Airport by Miguel Angel Almada, under secretary of international commerical relations, and other officials of the Economy and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

The members of the PRC mission will also meet with Conrado Bauer, minister of public works and services; Victor Santirso, secretary of agriculture and livestock; Commerce Secretary Alberto Noguera; and Planning Secretary General Jose Miret.

ENERGY SECRETARY SAYS NO FIXED DATE FOR YACYRETA

PY191920 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Argentine secretary of energy returned to the country today after reviewing with Paraguayan officials several aspects related to the construction of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam.

Shortly after his arrival, Engineer Alieto Guadagni told the press that he did not bring back a fixed date for the start of the project, because there are a number of questions that must be resolved first, some of greater, and some of lesser importance.

What I am going to do now, Engineer Guadagni said, is to report to the minister of public works and services, Engineer Conrado Bauer, and to the president, General Reynaldo Bignone, about the status of the binational negotiations for the construction of Yacyreta.

HAVANA CITES SUPPORT FOR CHILEAN STRUGGLE

PA192325 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] [Saul Waldini], secretary general of the Argentine General Confederation of Labor, has expressed his support for the National Workers Command, a multi-union organization recently created to coordinate the labor sector's protests against Augusto Pinochet's fascist dictatorship.

For its part, the Argentine Socialist Confederation has issued a declaration reiterating its repudiation of the Chilean regime. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Argentina has expressed its solidarity with the Chilean people in their struggle to restore democracy.

Peronism Support Noted

PA211851 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Oscar Arevalo, member of the Political Commission of the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA], has reiterated the PCA's support for Peronism during the elections that will be held in Argentina in October. Arevalo explained that the support is based on coinciding platform proposals and on a desire to contribute to establishing a lasting and stable democracy that will solve Argentina's urgent socioeconomic problems.

BRIEFS

1983 FISHING TAKE -- The Maritime Interests Secretariat has reported that the fish catch totalled 230,000 tons during the first 7 months of 1983, compared to 257,000 tons during the same period in 1982. The Secretariat added that the 10.5-percent drop was due to the decrease in the hake and shrimp catch. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 83 PY]

CABINET SHUFFLE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

PY240126 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] According to authorized government palace spokesmen, the organization of the new cabinet has been postponed indefinitely. No explanations of the decision were forthcoming tonight.

Meanwhile, the president of the republic has been consulting with political leaders and cabinet ministers. The head of state handled administrative matters in his office today.

According to what was learned from the authorized spokesman, the designation of the foreign affairs and interior posts is hindering the organization of the new cabinet. The disagreement over the appointment of new ministers to the two posts has reportedly created a rift within President Siles Zuazo's party.

PUBLIC UNREST ERUPTS OVER TRANSPORT FARE HIKE

PY230130 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Public discontent and unrest erupted today in various parts of the nation as a consequence of the 100-percent increase in public transport fares announced throughout the country. In Cochabamba, students, workers, and civic organizations took to the streets to voice their protest of the measure. (Sabino Rodriguez), the leader of the Labor Federation of Cochabamba Department, called Transport Minister Fernando Poppe a spokesman of the bus owners. The Panamericana correspondent in that city has reported that public transport services have been suspended, because discontent is growing without restraint.

This is a report we just received a few minutes ago from Cochabamba:

[Begin recording] Panamericana reporting from Cochabamba: Students of San Simon University are threatening to block the highway to Chapare to protest the fare increase, saying that it is a criminal attack on the people. The workers of Manaco [shoe factory] have put off their decision on the matter until next Thursday, according to their secretary general, (Marco Florin).

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the teachers have announced that now 70 percent of their salaries will go to paying bus fares. They have asked the Bolivian Labor Federation to take measures in defense of the people. Leaders of the Federation of Neighborhood Juntas have stated that as of Tuesday, tomorrow morning, they will take strong measures, such as blocking of streets and avenues, and student leaders have joined the juntas in this decision.

Public transport in this district was suspended shortly after noon today. At the time this report is being sent, there are no taxis or buses available. [end recording]

Unrest in Outlying Cities

PY240021 [Editorial Report] La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 23 August relayed reports from Cochabamba, Oruro, and Sucre on public protests and demonstrations against the economic measures adopted by President Siles Zuazo's government.

In Cochabamba, both private and public activities have been paralyzed as a consequence of the social restlessness affecting the city. According to the radio, this morning most citizens went out to erect blockades in the streets to protest the increase in transport fares adopted by the government. Groups of citizens reportedly blockaded streets and avenues following a decision made at a general meeting held yesterday. All private vehicles adopted similar measures, thus paralyzing the city completely. University students from the city also stated that within the next few hours they will issue a document demanding the resignation of President Siles Zuazo.

A similar report relayed from Oruro stated that housewives have blockaded the main streets in this city, protesting the economic measures adopted by the government, which are aggravating the anxiety of housewives in general. The housewives harshly criticized the "irresponsible economic policy adopted by the government" and expressed their repudiation of the new increase in the cost of living.

In Sucre, most citizens also expressed their rejection of the new transport fares implemented by the government. However, through an agreement between the traffic board and the different urban transport unions, the new transport fares have not yet been implemented in Sucre. Peasants from neighboring districts have also expressed their dissatisfaction over the increase in transport fares, which will increase the price of their products.

BRIEFS

PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Rafael Vargas Santos, newly appointed Panamanian ambassador to Bolivia, presented his credentials to President Hernan Siles on 17 August. As required by protocol, the ceremony was held at Government House. [Excerpt] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 3 PY]

AMBASSADOR RESIGNS -- It was reported during the regular session of the Senate held on 10 August that Bolivian Ambassador to the United Nations Jorge Gumuncio Granier has resigned from his post mainly because Gumuncio Granier's appointment was not approved by the Senate as is established in the Constitution. [Excerpt] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Aug 83 p 8 PY]

OAS CONVENTIONS RATIFIED -- La Paz, 4 Aug (AFP) -- The Bolivian Government has ratified 14 OAS conventions of private international law. One of the conventions includes the promise not to accept the extradition of persons exiled for political reasons. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 4 Aug 83 PY]

CUSTOMS DIRECTOR DISMISSED -- Finance Minister Flavio Machicado has dismissed Customs Director General Rodolfo Claros in the light of the hunger strike staged by the workers of this institution. Once the decision was made the workers discontinued their strike. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Aug 83 PY]

TIN EXPORTS -- According to the Mines and Metal Bulletin, Bolivia exported a total of 5,722,760 million kg of fine tin, worth a total $70.6 million, during the first 4 months of the year. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83 PY]

SOURCE SAYS FIGUEIREDO DOES NOT PLAN REELECTION

PY231623 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Yesterday government spokesman Carlos Atila stated that neither reelection nor a direct election are in President Figueiredo's plans.

BRIEFS

POLICE SEIZE COCAINE SHIPMENTS -- Campo Grande, 5 Aug (EFE) -- The Brazilian police have detained in Campo Grande (Mato Grosso de Sul state) Bolivian drug traffickers Osvaldo Argueidas and Nelson Gravici, who were carrying 194 kg of cocaine, which is the largest load seized in Brazilian history. According to police sources, the drug was coming from the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, to be sold in the United States for $2 million. Five Bolivian citizens, whose identifications were not established, managed to escape. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 6 Aug 83 PY] -- Campo Grande, 5 Aug (AFP) -- A record shipment of 280 kg of cocaine was seized last night by the Brazilian federal police near Campo Grande, capital of the Mato Grosso de Sul state. According to a police source, the drug came from Bolivia, was estimated at $46 million and was hidden in the cargo department of an airplane that landed in an airport located near this city. This is reportedly the largest cocaine shipment seized by the Brazilian police during the past few years. In September 1982, federal police agents seized 1000 kg of cocaine in Sao Paulo. The federal police also announced that 8 kg of cocaine was seized from the car of a Brazilian drug trafficker in the city of Sao Paulo. In Rio, the police also detained Italian drug trafficker Fernando Norville, who was ready to leave for Zurich with 2 kg of cocaine. This is the second Italian drug trafficker detained at the international airport of Rio de Janeiro during the past 48 hours, because on Wednesday, Italian Doriano Moretto was detained with 8 kg of cocaine. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1345 GMT 5 Aug 83 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED IN RIO -- Rio de Janeiro, 4 Aug (AFP) -- the Brazilian federal Police Department (DPF) has reported that on 3 August it detained an Italian drug trafficker, Doriano Moretto, 32. The drug trafficker was about to board a plane for Europe at the Rio International Airport carrying 8 kg of cocaine. Moretto had arrived in Rio de Janeiro on 1 August from Santo Cruz de la Sierra. He had purchased the cocaine in Santa Cruz and planned to distribute it among his customers in Rome. The quantity seized was estimated to be worth 100 million cruzeiros (about $154,000). [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1313 GMT 4 Aug 83 PY]

TRADE WITH IRAN -- Carlos Viacava, director of the Bank of Brazil's Foreign Trade Department (CACEX), announced on 15 August that Brazil has recently signed a letter of intent with Iran by which Brazil is to export to Iran assorted products totaling $400 million. Brazilian oil imports from Iran will total $600 million over the period 1 August 1983 to 30 July 1984. According to Viacava, as a result of this agreement, Brazilian exports to Iran have doubled, as they totaled $200 million in 1982. [Excerpt] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Aug 83 p 17 PY]

SEGUEL EVALUATES MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

PY231638 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Aug (EFE) -- One of the primary subjects discussed during a meeting between Rodolfo Seguel, the president of the Confederation of Copper Workers [CTC], and Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa was the situation of the 633 workers who have been fired by the large copper mines.

At the end of his meeting with the interior minister, Seguel noted that they agreed to hold another meeting on Thursday and that during this meeting the interior minister may present possible solutions to the problems raised by the CTC leaders.

During an unscheduled press conference held following his meeting with Interior Minister Onofre Jarpa, Seguel briefly discussed the issues. Regarding the national days of protest that have been planned, which was one of the issues discussed at the meeting, Seguel noted that "we have always stated that we do not promote violence and that we repudiate it wherever it comes from." He added: "The protest marches we have carried out were peaceful, orderly demonstrations that were supported by a large majority. But what is more important is the fact that we are dealing with national issues, and not with issues merely concerning the copper sector."

Seguel said he supports the idea of achieving a national consensus in order to take the country "out of the pit." He noted that the greatest problem the country is experiencing is unemployment, which according to his estimates runs up to 35 percent. He also said that he attended the meeting with the interior minister not only as a CTC representative but also in his capacity as president of the National Workers Command, since he is seeking solutions to labor problems at the national level and not just to those problems affecting the copper sector.

Regarding the meeting scheduled for next Thursday, Seguel noted that the interior minister will present some solutions to those problems affecting copper workers. These problems include issues such as dismissals, legal charges raised against copper workers by the Interior Ministry, and the problems resulting from the position upheld by CODELCO [Copper Corporation] regarding dismissals of workers and union leaders whom it refuses to recognize as such.

Hugo Estivales, CTC vice president, who also attended the meeting with the interior minister, said it "was a bit tense at first, but there was a relaxed atmosphere later." He added that he believes there is goodwill on the part of the government, particularly on the part of Interior Minister Onofre Jarpa, to solve those problems affecting this sector.

Regarding the meeting scheduled for next Thursday, Estivales noted that he believes that it will come up with solutions "for those workers who were fired and for those union leaders who were also fired but not recognized as such." So far, there has been no official report about this meeting.

Luis Eduardo Thayer, the lawyer for the copper workers, told EFE that Seguel has been invited to visit several European nations, among them Spain, but he noted that Seguel is not planning to visit them "in the near future."

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PLANS

PY190030 Santiago COSAS in Spanish 11 Aug 83 pp 10-14

[Interview granted by Chilean Finance Minister Carlos Caceres to COSAS correspondent Raquel Correa -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minister, do you dream?
[Answer] Seldom.
[Interviewer] During the last week of his stay in New York, Minister Caceres is reported to have awakened in a startled state several times. "I think I was dreaming about the renegotiation talks."
[Question] Were they difficult?
[Answer] No commercial negotiation could be regarded as easy. To negotiate means to reach agreement, and that is not easy.

[Question] Ever since you were designated finance minister, most of your efforts have been devoted to the renegotiation of the foreign debt and to the conclusion of an agreement with the IMF. Now that those problems are solved, at least in theory, what will you do?

[Answer] We have always paid priority attention to the internal situation, which is our most important task. However, during the last 6 months the Finance Ministry has had to concentrate on the renegotiation of the foreign debt, because it was an unpostponable issue. It was an essential precondition for a state of relative tranquillity that may facilitate the implementation of a reactivation process. During the last 6 months, our main concern on the internal front has been the implementation of an emergency program.

[Question] What emergency program, Mr Minister?

[Answer] The rescheduling of 30 percent of the internal debt and the sale of houses in installments to be paid over a period of 20 years with an 8-percent annual interest rate. The essential objective of the whole government and of President Pinochet in particular is to lower the unemployment rate. Our efforts and priority attention have focused on this objective.

We have committed ourselves to lowering the unemployment rate to 15 percent by the end of the year. We will make use of all appropriate and necessary tools to attain this objective.

[Question] Mr Minister, how can unemployment be cut by 50 percent in the current recession, and with a restrictive economic policy. It is estimated that 30 percent of the work force is idle, taking into account that there are 770,000 unemployed persons, plus 396,000 people in the Minimum Employment Program [Plan del Empleo Minimo -- PEM] and 132,000 in the Plan for Heads of Households [Plan Para Jefes de Hogar -- POJH].

[Answer] In my opinion, the people working under the POJH are not unemployed.

[Question] But their monthly income amounts to only 4,000 pesos....

[Answer] There are different levels of wages for professional, skilled, and unskilled manpower under the POJH. Some wages are substantially higher than 4,000 pesos. In addition, there are many people who work for a similar wage.

[Question] And shouldn't they also be considered unemployed?

[Answer] Unemployed persons are those who do not have remunerative employment. The people under these two plans are working and earning a specific salary.

[Question] You call unemployed those people who do not have a job; others also call unemployed those who earn wages so low that they cannot live decently.

[Answer] But they have to take into account our country's economic situation -- our economy is recuperating from an illness.

[Question] Recuperating? Mr Minister, that sounds optimistic.

[Answer] Our Gross Domestic Product fell by 14 percent last year, causing the unemployment rate to rise. The problem has become even worse because other family members, women and youths, have also had to go to work in order to raise the family income, thus increasing the work force.

The important thing to note is that the government is taking the necessary measures to gradually solve the unemployment problem.

[Question] Will this be done by increasing the palliative programs such as the PEM or the POJH, or by truly reactivating the economy through greater production and consumption?

[Answer] In economic policy one always has to make a choice between options. The usual objectives of any economic policy are growth, full employment, and the relative stability of price levels. It is possible that these objectives will not be compatible with each other in the short term, so the economic authority should seek to make them compatible in the medium or long term. In order to reduce the unemployment rate to 15 percent, we must channel the scarce fiscal resources available to those sectors which require labor most, regardless of the immediate growth of the GDP.

[Question] Does this mean that the answer to unemployment is to increase the work programs for heads of households?

[Answer] We have had to combine the work program as part of a transitory policy until the economy rates start generating the necessary employment. We have allocated greater quantities of funds for housing and public works projects and, as a matter of fact, investments in these sectors during the second half of this year will be approximately 60 percent higher than during the first half. Public investment during the second half of the year amounts to approximately 7 to 8 billion pesos. This, in itself, should absorb unemployment. If these programs do not manage to reduce unemployment to 15 percent, we will implement intensive programs of specific work, such as the POJH. It is intended to reduce the 15-percent unemployment rate to more reasonable levels in 1984.

[Question] The 15-percent unemployment rate is more than double our previous record of 6 percent.

[Answer] Unfortunately, the magnitude of the current recession has caused the unemployment rates of most countries to be twice as high as their record rates. Moreover, unemployment is one of the latest variables to overcome recession.

[Question] Mr Minister, can you imagine how an unemployed person feels?

[Answer] It must be hard, very hard, to know that one is capable of doing a certain job and cannot find it.

[Question] Mr Minister, the problem of knowing how to do a job is not as bad as the need of one.

[Answer] For this reason, and because the government is fully aware of the problem, it has developed these work programs which allow Chileans to do something and receive some income. The unfortunate thing is that the available resources are scarce.

[Question] It is a general belief that the agreement reached with the IMF for the rescheduling of the Chilean foreign debt prevents recovery, or at best, makes it very slow. Shouldn't the terms of the agreement be renegotiated?

[Answer] I would look at the relationship between renegotiation and reactivation from a different point of view. In the first place, what would have become of the Chilean economy if we had not reached an agreement with the IMF and, in the second place, what would we have done if we had not been granted the $1.3-billion loan that we have just signed with the international banking sector? We would undoubtedly have not been able to meet our foreign commitments, and as a consequence would have been faced with a shortage of supplies. We have avoided this and have reached an agreement with the IMF and the international banking sector that is in keeping with a program drawn up by the country, and which was submitted to the IMF authorities.

We have covered our debts for 1983 and in October 1983 we will meet with the IMF mission to analyze our commitments for 1984.

[Question] Couldn't some measures such as a higher tariff protection, lower interest rates, and a greater liquidity through more active fiscal and monetary policies be adopted to attain domestic growth, instead of expecting the situation abroad to improve?

[Answer] I think that those measures would just disrupt the situation. To distort the tariff scheme and create artificially low interest rates has a price -- it just disrupts the economy.

[Question] Since the possibility of contracting foreign debts is closed, one wonders if we shouldn't, in some way, protect national production by encouraging Chilean businessmen to generate resources.

[Answer] The trouble is that resources are required even for this. And we do not have the resources to attain the country's speedy recovery. In order to set the industrial sector in motion, we need to import raw materials, which requires credit lines, and we also need to place our products abroad. We are not going to repeat the mistake of an economy isolated from the rest of the world, because that is anachronistic and we have paid too high a price for this isolation.

[Question] But it never was as high as the economic opening, was it?

[Answer] I do not hold the economic opening responsible for what is happening, quite the contrary. I firmly believe that the chances for free trade generate the real alternatives for growth, especially for the developing countries.

[Question] It is stated that no other country has its borders as widely open as Chile, and that everyone else subsidizes their products in order to place them on the international markets...

[Answer] This type of policy always entails a price which is always paid by the consumer, who should be every government's ultimate concern.

[Question] In this regard, the cost of the model adopted in Chile is dramatic...

[Answer] The price we have paid is caused by a series of factors, especially by the world recession and restrictions on foreign credit.

[Question] Is Chile a country condemned to live off loans?

[Answer] Not necessarily, but we must admit that Chile is a country with scarce capital and with a limited capacity to save. The advantage of foreign indebtedness is that it develops the capacity of domestic production. The country will have the necessary resources to support growth rates in the future if we make a real effort to save at the same time as we receive foreign financing.

[Question] Some economists believe that despite the fact that you are more pragmatic than your predecessors you still believe in the self-adjustment system for reactivation.

[Answer] I prefer world realism to pragmatism, and I do not agree that the previous finance ministers lacked realism. The essential condition for a person who intends to conduct an economic policy is to be a realist; to be aware of the circumstances, reach a diagnosis and seek the alternatives for a solution within the framework of the resources available...and those who believe that we still have confidence in the self-adjustment system are obviously forgetting all we have done during the past few months; the program of rescheduling the foreign debt, the increase in the customs tariff from 10 to 20 percent, the program to extend mortgage maturity dates, the rescheduling of mortgages, the special program for public works, and the construction of houses underway. If all this is considered a self-adjustment system, then I frankly do not understand...

[Question] And is this still being called a market economy?

[Answer] Yes, the economy is open for foreign competition. The impersonal norm still prevails. The role of the state has indeed grown more than it should in a normal market economy, but as stated by all, in any process of crisis the state must assume a predominant role. And we are doing so with the resources we have at hand.

[Question] Don't you think that the extreme absence of the state has been one of the internal causes of the crisis?

[Answer] More than the role of the state, we can find some difficulties with the laws, as far as control is concerned. Some absences or failures could have been observed, failures we have to detect to find the appropriate solutions. There were attitudes on the part of economic agents which surpassed the real possibilities of our economy.

[Question] It is estimated that to pay its foreign debt, Chile must invest 80 percent of its exports in the future, beginning in 1985...

[Answer] It is rather difficult to anticipate what could happen in 1985 when dealing with foreign debts. But I frankly believe that if the Western economy begins a process of recovery and our country maintains a consistent program with economic prudence, there will be no difficulty; and once the international financial market returns to normal, we may obtain credits similar to those we should be paying.

It is normal that in the future the country will have to maintain a level of debt similar to that of today, in real terms, and to generate only enough resources to pay the interests. Moreover, we could go into debt at a rate similar to the growth of the product without increasing the debt-product relation.

[Question] There are many who think that what is being done today is mortgaging the future.

[Answer] The future has not been mortgaged, and I do not find very serious the fact that many pretend to grow at very high rates and simultaneously try to pay the foreign debt. I see a certain contradiction: Those who say "they are mortgaging the future" are the same ones who want a quick reactivation process.

[Question] A quick reactivation to improve the present and not to mortgage the future.

[Answer] That is impossible. It is absolutely impossible to achieve a faster reactivation. Whoever says that is living in an absolute dream world. To obtain a reactivation one must have resources, and since Chile does not have domestic resources, it resorts to foreign resources. For this purpose, we are renegotiating the debt and the new loan of $300 million is for this purpose. Today we have established a foreign balance with the refinancing of the debt with the international banks, and I am convinced that the fiscal and monetary policy is under the control of the authorities.

[Question] Excessive control, according to the businessmen...

[Answer] According to the real situation of resources we have at hand.

[Question] What is your opinion, Mr Minister, on the economic proposal presented by the organization of businessmen?

[Answer] We are making a thorough and complete study of the document presented by the federation, and we hope to give an overall answer within the next few weeks.

[Question] Different sectors of the nation, including economists, claim that it is impossible to have a reactivation without greater fiscal deficits or without more liquidity in the economy, with a system of controlled inflation.

[Answer] I believe these are mistaken ideas. Increasing the fiscal dificit involves the absorption of resources of the private sector to finance that deficit, because the economy has not yet discovered how to make something out of nothing. As far as inflation is concerned, I frankly do not believe in a controlled inflation: Once inflation develops, it acquires its own dynamic force, especially in relation to the expectations of the economic agents. The effort made by the country to achieve relative price stability is an essential condition for the economy to function in an orderly manner. And I do not consider it sensible to divert from this course. Efforts are being made so that the country, with the best use of the available resources, with the implementation of an orderly fiscal and monetary policy, may achieve the essential conditions for sustained economic growth in the future.

[Question] When is the future?

[Answer] It is difficult to say. The economy is dynamic. The future is tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, the next 6 months. And we are already observing signs of recovery in our production activity.

[Question] And choosing between unemployment and inflation, would you prefer unemployment?

[Answer] I do not believe in that alternative; that dilemna does not exist. If employment is generated via inflation, then to maintain that employment inflation increases. And that is a vicious circle that can lead us to the deterioration of the productive apparatus as in 1973.... If money is expanded indiscriminately, it will start an inflationary process. Then we get ourselves on a merry-go-round of salary increases, higher prices, salary increases, higher prices. Inflation is a tax, and a country is not reactivated by increasing taxes.

[Question] A generalized increasing dissatisfaction is observed in the country, and this is a new political problem which stems from the economic crisis.

[Answer] It is obvious that the critical situation which the Chilean economy had to face has had social and political consequences. On adopting the measures I feel appropriate, based on the available resources, the government is making the greatest and best efforts to lead us to a process of consistent reactivation of all production sectors. To the extent that the economic agents begin to perceive a new reality, the social and political pressures recorded during the past few months will begin to retreat.

[Question] Do you believe that, at this time of the year, the political dissatisfaction will be overcome with an economic boom?

[Answer] Yes, provided that the people realize that recovery stems from a common effort and that improvement is conditioned on realistic policies which allow consistent popular support.

[Question] Since the information which has been provided at different times is inconsistent, Mr Minister, it would be interesting to know just exactly what has been renegotiated.

[Answer] We have always given the same figures. The specific amounts are: first, a new $1.3 billion credit; second, $2.1 billion in amortizations falling due in 1983 and 1984 which have to be stretched out; third, $1.3 billion in short-term financial credits; and fourth, $1.68 billion to bring credit for foreign trade operations back to the level available on 28 February 1983, which was overdrawn.

[Question] Does the fact that, as you said, the Chilean state has committed itself to the international banks for new lines of credit to be granted and to be used "both by the private and public sector" mean that the state, or the government, now manages credits?

[Answer] The Central Bank is responsible for credit policy. These lines of credit will be channeled into the private sector through the entire financial systems -- state banks, intervened banks, and private banks. Distribution of credit will respond to demand under absolutely impersonal rules.

[Question] What guarantees will be required from the private sector for the new lines of credit, so that the state, meaning all Chileans, will not again be made responsible for private debts?

[Answer] The Central Bank is channeling credit through financial institutions, and these will decide whether an agreement can be reached with applicants. Those who receive credits are responsible for repaying them to the financial institutions, which can demand all the guarantees necessary in these cases, as is usually done in financial operations.

[Question] Wouldn't additional safeguards be necessary on credits granted with the state acting as guarantor, considering that the state is now responsible for credits with which it had nothing to do?

[Answer] It is important to clarify that the state today is guaranteeing only the new $1.3-billion credit, which, by the way, will go to the Central Bank, the refinanced 1983-84 amortizations, and the credit for foreign trade operations at the 28 February level, which will be available until 31 December 1984. Therefore, the state is not guaranteeing the total debt of the financial system, but only the 1983-84 amortizations. Neither is it guaranteeing the debts which have been contracted directly by private companies. In short, we are guaranteeing only the refinanced amortization of the financial system, not the debts of the private companies.

[Question] Mr Minister, does this mean that the government is practically supporting only those who handle money, not those who produce goods?

[Answer] The economy as a whole needs both money-handling institutions and goods-producing enterprises. The economy cannot be divided the way you are suggesting.

[Question] But the government only backs the financial not the productive system.

[Answer] But do not forget that the financial institutions also produce services, and that the financial system is necessary to move the productive apparatus. The fear of state domination through the formula "state owning banks, banks owning enterprises" is unjustified. I do not see any danger of state domination. This danger is posed by the will of governments, and this government's will is not to impose state domination.

[Question] What type of enterprises should in your view be favored with the new credits?

[Answer] I do not think credit should be distributed on a discriminatory basis. The market itself should guide the distribution of credit resources.

[Question] The market? Haven't we seen that the market has pushed the country to the very edge?

[Answer] No, the market cannot be blamed for that. We must not lay the blame on the market, which is nothing but a rendevouz point for producers and consumers acting on their own free will.

[Question] Where does the blame lie then?

[Answer] The problems stemmed from the instruments of economic policy. But let's not place the blame on the market, which is not only the foundation of an economic regime but also the foundation of a society that wants to live in freedom. And for me, freedom is more important than an economic regime.

[Question] It is said that one of the problems which aggravated the crisis was the productive sector's loss of confidence in the government economic policy. Although some people say that your management has restored that confidence, it seems that such confidence is still very weak because any event or rumor can shake it.

This was demonstrated at the time of the well-publicized difference between the economy minister and yourself regarding the best approach to solving the crisis.

[Answer] It is not up to me, but to the public to say whether confidence exists. My conviction is that an economic policy only can inspire confidence first, if economic objectives are clearly defined; second, if economic instruments are carefully handled; and third, if decisions are realistically and responsibly adopted.

[Question] Talking about confidence, Mr Minister, the fact that the Republic of Chile itself -- "the fatherland, and not a state agency" -- guarantees the $1.3-billion credit contract signed on 28 July caused perplexity, even a scandal. Was it done so as not to violate Constitution Article 98, whereby the Central Bank is prohibited from granting guarantees to private financial institutions?

[Answer] First of all, I have seen no scandal. Second, Article 98 of the Constitution specifically refers to guarantees the Central Bank may grant. In this case, the Republic of Chile is granting that guarantee and the Central Bank is receiving the credit. Therefore, Article 98 is not pertinent, but rather Article 60 is.

[Question] Paragraph seven of Article 60 empowers the government and its agencies to contract loans, which "shall be allocated to the financing of specific projects."

[Answer] True, and since the Constitution sets forth that the contracting of credits must be approved by law, a bill was first submitted to the legislative branch. Once the bill was passed into law, we signed the final contract with the international banking community. All legal requirements were met. Given the nature of the functions of the Central Bank, the Constitution has not imposed the duty of financing specific projects on it.

[Question] Bearing in mind that all Chileans, as a nation, have a stake in the negotiation of this credit, don't you think they should have been consulted through a referendum?

[Answer] The Constitution sets forth that a referendum is to be called for in specific cases only; the above case is not foreseen.

[Question] I mean a mechanism resembling a referendum, or at least, consultation.

[Answer] A complex, delicate, and strictly commercial operation should not be subject to consultation. All legal requirements were met; also, the Council of State Defense and the Justice Ministry were asked to produce reports on the matter.

[Question] Upon returning from New York after the signing of the agreement, you gave assurances that the conditions of the new loan "are normal." Is it normal, Mr Minister, that a sovereign nation should accept the terms of an agreement "drafted in keeping with and ruled by the law" of a foreign state, in this case New York State, as Article 12.11 sets forth?

[Answer] It is absolutely normal. Commercial operations of this kind are implemented throughout the world. Under this agreement, more than 350 banks granted credits. These banks do not know Chilean regulations on the matter. Therefore, they asked that the commercial operation be carried out in keeping with the regulations of a financial and commercial center as important as New York.

[Question] Is it also normal that a sovereign republic should relinquish its immunities and privileges as Chile did under the terms of Article 12.08 (d) of the agreement? Doesn't that mean in practice that Chile will have sovereign rights only over the properties occupied by its diplomatic and consular missions, the house of the heads of such missions, and military facilities, and that all other Chilean properties may be impounded if Chile does not meet its obligations?

[Answer] Immunity is a legal term under which governments involved in dealings similar to the operations carried out by private parties are bound to the laws regulating those private operations. To relinquish privileges under these terms is something completely normal.

[Question] What could be then impounded? Land, the oceans, our mineral resources?

[Answer] No, those items cannot be impounded. Neither can they be mortgaged or subject to taxation. We did none of this.

[Question] But if Chile does not meet its obligations...

[Answer] We closed a normal commercial deal, and when you close a deal you expect that you will meet the corresponding obligations.

[Question] And if we cannot meet them, what will be impounded? The Chuquicamata mine? The parade ground? The Government House building? What are, Mr Minister, the guarantees that Chile has given to the foreign banks?

[Answer] There is neither mortage nor pledge, but the word of the state and the Central Bank -- that is quite clear. I believe that some persons, driven by either ignorance or demagogy, are seeking to provoke the scandal you are talking about. And they have good reasons to do that. We closed a financial deal under the terms to which all other countries agree when carrying out similar operations. That's all.

[Question] Nonpayment of our debt will not be the only condition in which our country will be considered to be in default, but also "any event or situation that may drive a majority of creditors to conclude that there are reasonable indications that neither the Central Bank nor the country will be able to comply with the terms of the agreement." Don't you think this clause is too vague, subjective, compromising, and broad in scope?

[Answer] There are more than 300 creditors. The best assurance that they will not act lightly or irrationally is the fact that more than 150 banks would have to make a unanimous decision on the matter.

[Question] Mr Minister, let us suppose that there is a very radical political change in our country, followed by the advent to power of a socialist government. Wouldn't creditor banks, most of which are from the U.S., declare our country in default, claiming that such a government does not give them sufficient guarantees that it will meet its obligations?

[Answer] Every change in conditions must be paid for. In 1970, Popular Unity designed an economic system that international banks did not approve. If the event you are talking about occurred, and I am sure it will not, and if there were a radical political change, then the situation would change and the country would have to consider the cost, in terms of international financial relations.

We must accept facts as they are. I don't think anybody will responsibly believe that the capitalist world would finance a socialist government, and vice versa, obviously.

[Question] Does that mean that the current regime is using foreign loans to make sure that only a specific kind of government will succeed in Chile?

[Answer] No, no, no. The point is to give guarantees that the loan will be repaid. And this is something quite different. There was no political pressure whatsoever involved in the signature of the agreement with the private banks. It strictly was a commercial operation. And what foreign banks want is to see the loan repaid.

[Question] But the government should have made a declaration of principles...

[Answer] A declaration of principles concerning the foundations of our economic policy, which is based on private initiative, free competition, the subsidizing role of the state, and the principle of equality before the law.

[Question] And doesn't that mean that Chile will not be able, at least in the next 7 years, to change its economic policy and adopt, through a sovereign decision, a model opposed to that of free competition?

[Answer] Chile can change its economic policy, but the cost of the change will have to be evaluated and analyzed whenever that situation arises.

[Question] In other words, Mr Minister, the agreement assures the continuation of an economic policy. Don't you think this commitment, which is of a political nature, infringes upon our sovereignty?

[Answer] It is not a commitment. Our country is and will be free to make a sovereign decision on the economic policy it wants to adopt. Our only commitment is to repay the debt. But if a government chooses to implement a scheme that is irrational from the economic standpoint, creditors will have full powers to evaluate the situation and make their own decision.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CREDIT LINES

PY202218 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Central Bank President Felipe Errazuriz has announced that the line of credit for operating capital has been increased by 3.6 billion pesos. This amount is added to the 4.8-billion peso line that was announced 1 month ago, to the 10-billion peso line to preserve jobs and create new ones, and to the funds available to reschedule the debts of production sector debtors. He also announced that the line of credit will be available as of Monday.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] A line of credit for operating capital will be available on Monday. This consists of the delivery of equipment worth 3.6 billion pesos to the banking system for it to turn over to production sector debtors. This line of credit, which is an expansion of the one granted last month, has major [word indistinct]. First, 15 percent of the line will be allocated to satisfy the current needs of the agricultural sector.

Moreover, we have reduced interest rates. We believe that the real annual cost of the credits to the beneficiaries will be on the order of 11 percent [words indistinct]. This is undoubtedly a substantial reduction in the interest rate [words indistinct] the stability brought by the lower financial costs since last April. [end recording]

Errazuriz said that the banks will refund the credits to the Central Bank over the next 18 months.

Errazuriz also elaborated on the 10-billion peso line of credit to preserve jobs and create new ones. [Begin Errazuriz recording] We have also said that the line of credit that was announced by his excellency the president of the republic a few days ago will be available during the course of this week. This line of credit will be allocated to finance salaries under current contracts as well as salaries on additional contracts. This financing represents 10 percent of the salaries, if there are no variations in employment, but goes up to 40 percent in case of new contracts. [end recording]

These credits will have a real interest rate of 5 percent a year. He also announced that the 8 billion pesos, which have not been used by some banks to refinance the debts of some production sectors, will be redistributed among financial institutions to make them available for other businesses.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] We have also discussed the renegotiation of the debts with bank presidents. They expressed the need to extend the deadline to 30 September to give the applications more time for processing. The Central Bank has received applications which cover up to 70 percent of the credits, representing credits for about 50,000 people or clients. However, the banking system is keeping an important number of applications for evaluation. We have said that 30 September is the deadline for the renegotiation, and we are satisfied because we are fulfilling the plans predicted in March of last year. [end recording]

During the press conference, the Central Bank president also emphasized the reduction of interest rates. He said that international reserves have increased to $100 million since May and that the trade balance, to this date, shows a surplus of $700 million. Exports have reached $1.2 billion, and it is expected that they will reach $4 billion by the end of this year. Errazuriz added that imports decreased 34 percent compared to the same period last year, but imports of raw materials increased to $21 million, a significant sign. He also announced that Eximbank showed its willingness to grant a $50-million credit to Chile.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] This week we had two important events regarding foreign credits. We received a credit of approximately $112 million from the IMF and learned of the Eximbank's willingness to grant us a credit of $50 million. This credit will be made available in the next few days so that national producers who want to purchase capital goods from abroad will be able to get this 5-year term financing. [end recording]

In conclusion, he expressed satisfaction over the results of the exchange policy, saying that speculation is over. He said, however, that it is not possible to return to the absolute free exchange system soon, adding that the measures adopted last March helped to keep control over the situation.

LLOREDA CRITICIZES U.S., USSR POLICIES IN C.A.

PA240332 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2211 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 23 Aug (DPA) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo today criticized the United States, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union and the communist bloc, on the other, for not contributing to a stable peace in Central America, saying that "the behavior of one is just as reprehensible as that of the other."

The foreign minister pointed out the exercises being conducted by the U.S. fleet in the Central American Pacific and the dispatch of arms to Nicaragua by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries. Lloreda Caicedo said that "this does not alleviate tensions."

The foreign minister also said that the special representatives of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama) will meet in Panama 25-26 August to draft documents that will be discussed in the joint meeting of the region's five foreign ministers and the four Contadora foreign ministers on 6 September.

FARC SEEKS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT, PEACE BODY

PA240205 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Aug 83 pp 1- , 8-

[Article by Jairo Cala Otero]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 18 Aug -- The FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has invited President Belisario Betancur and the members of the Peace Commission to hold a dialogue with its general staff, in the mountains of the middle Magdalena region, to "consolidate the peace process in Colombia."

The invitation was issued by the 12th Jose Antonio Galan Front through a bulletin it circulated in this city.

The FARC supported the efforts of the head of state to promote peace in Central America, but it pointed out that the achievement of peace in Colombia should not be neglected.

"We support the president's actions with the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America, but we feel that he should also be concerned with solving problems in Colombia by entering into an open and civilized dialogue with us, with the armed movement, as we have proposed in joint FARC, EPL [Peoples Liberation Army], and M-19 [19 April Movement] statements."

The bulletin stated that if the president accepts the proposed dialogue, "we will be paving the way for a truce in Colombia for democratic peace."

The 12th Front confirmed its confidence in the results of such talks, and stated that the latest summit held between several FARC commanders and Santander Governor Rafael Moreno Penaranda was a positive beginning.

SARAVENA MAYOR, POLICE INSPECTOR KILLED

PA240250 Paris AFP in Spanish 2044 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 23 Aug (AFP) -- The wave of violence that is affecting rural Colombia grew worse today when it was learned that Alfonso Ramirez Parada, the mayor of Saravena, a town on the Venezuelan border, was murdered. Ramirez Parada, a veterinarian, was shot to death last night by two people when he was leaving his office in the company of Ivan, his 10-year-old son, whose life was spared by the killers.

Meanwhile, the authorities have reported that a police inspector in Fredonia, a town in the northeastern Department of Antioquia, was shot to death by unidentified persons while riding on a bus.

The police also reported finding the body of Nacianceno Echavarria, a 62-year-old cattleman, who was kidnapped on 12 July in the municipality of Ituango, Antioquia Department. It is believed that the kidnappers decided to kill Echavarria when his family refused to pay the high ransom demanded.

In Antioquia, which is some 500 km northeast of Bogota and is one of the areas most affected by the violence, 25 people have been murdered near the town of Puerto Berrio in the past 3 weeks. The communist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, who operate in that region and who were blamed for these crimes, have sent a communique to the press denying any responsibility.

BETANCUR'S OCTOBER TRAVEL PLANS SPECIFIED

PA210458 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[By Alberto Giraldo]

[Text] President Belisario Betancur will circle the world in 80 hours.

His international tour, already announced by EL SIGLO, will consist of a whirlwind of flights that is going to fill the agendas of world leaders. The Foreign Ministry drafted the program, which has since undergone changes.

The president will apparently visit 5 countries in 6 days, talking to 7 heads of state, delivering 12 speeches, and receiving the Prince of Asturias Award. His tour will begin on Monday, 3 October.

Betancur will first go to Washington, for a meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan; they will have a working dinner.

Afterward, the president will go to New York, to speak before the UN General Assembly. In the evening, he will dine with Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India and president of the Nonaligned Movement.

From New York, Betancur will fly to Brussels, EEC headquarters. Here, he will deliver a speech urging the rich countries to help the poorer ones. He will then go to Rome, where he will meet with His Holiness, the Pope, and with Sandro Pertini, of course.

Later, he will go on to Spain, where he will receive the Prince of Asturias Award. The ceremony was scheduled for 21 October, but it can be moved forward for reasons of protocol.

Betancur will return from his trip on 10 October.

It is not yet known who will accompany him on the tour.

POLICE SAY MUSEUM THEFT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

PA211735 Paris AFP in Spanish 1540 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 21 Aug (AFP) -- The Ecuadorean police have concluded that the theft of a historical sword which belonged to an old revolutionary liberal of the beginning of the century was a political act carried out by extremists.

The sword of General Eloy Alfaro, a revolutionary liberal who was twice president of the republic and was later arrested and murdered in 1912, was stolen by three armed individuals who held up Guayaquil's Municipal Museum 10 days ago. At first, the episode was taken as a common robbery, but the police have come to the conclusion that it was a publicity stunt carried out by "extremists, exclusively for political reasons."

The robbery was carried out by the Alfarist Montoneros, a self-styled group whose members distributed leaflets during the robbery, announcing that the sword will be returned "when Ecuador is politically and economically liberated and becomes a democratic country."

Authorities fear that subversives are trying to take advantage of the country's critical economic situation to promote political unrest. Traditionally, Eduador has not been troubled by the subversion and guerrilla movements as other Latin American countries.

CEPE TO SELL CRUDE TO AUSTRIA, RAISES PRICE

PA200349 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, has increased the price of a barrel of exportable crude by 70 cents. This decision was made after CEPE decided to sell 10,000 barrels a day to (Mott's Alpine), an Austrian state company, at $28.20 per barrel. Experts have said that this increase will bring the country an additional $1.3 billion a year. Ecuador has its exportable crude placed in long-term contracts with five foreign companies. One of the clauses of the contract states that if CEPE signs a contract with a new company at a different price, this also affects the other companies.

BRIEFS

JAPAN GRANTS LOAN -- Japan has granted a $40-million loan to the Ecuadorean Institute of Electrification, INECEL, to partially finance the installation of 830 km of transmission lines and 40 substations. The loan is to be payable in 25 years, including a 7-year grace period, at an annual interest rate of 4.5 percent, according to INECEL. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Aug 83 PA]

NEW CEPE MANAGER NAMED -- Patricio Rivadeneira is the new general manager of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE. The appointment was made by the CEPE board of directors at today's meeting following the resignation of Raul Jaramillo. [Summary] [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 83 PA]

CITIZENS DEMAND FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

PY192030 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 7

[Paid advertisement: "For the Freedom of Political Prisoners"]

[Excerpt] We the undersigned, citizens with democratic and just convictions, express in this manner our solidarity with the 37 Paraguayans held at the Tacumbu and Buen Pastor prisons who, in a legitimate attitude of peaceful resistance, are on a hunger strike in demand of their freedom, the application of fundamental rights, and the establishment of justice.

Because we consider their cause just; as Paraguayans to struggle for their land and to work on it without fear; to struggle for the right of information, scholarly research, and the dissemination of data on the national situation; and to struggle for the right for free unions and for freedom of expression;

We condemn: the laws that restrict freedom; the exercise of repression; of force and intimidation; and the permanent imposition of the state of siege, as effective means to prevent the exercise of such rights.

We call upon all those who share our thinking to join the civic struggle for the freedom of political prisoners and for the guarantee of their continued residence in the country.

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES -- During the first half of 1983, the Central Bank's foreign reserves fluctuated as follows: $642,435,000 in January, $642,997,000 in February, $655,737,000 in March, $667,672,000 in April, $671,967,000 in May and $648,139,000 in June. The reserves in dollars, which make up 69 percent of the foreign reserves, decreased from $648,060,000 in May to $449,451,000 in June. The reserves of other hard currencies decreased from $134,659,000 in May to $130,633,000 in June. The remaining 11 percent of the foreign reserves is made up of $4,054,000 in gold positions, $10,547,000 in foreign investments, $32,640,000 in the gold quota with the IMF, and $32,752,000 in special drawing rights. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Aug 83 p 6 PY]

TAIWAN DEFENSE MINISTER DECORATED -- During a special ceremony held at the Lopez Palace on 12 August, Chinese Defense Minister Sung Chang Chih was decorated with the National Order of Merit in the Order of the Grand Cross. Minister Sung was decorated by Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues. [Excerpt] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Aug 83 p 7 PY]

VENEZUELAN TRADE DELEGATION -- A Venezuelan economic mission headed by Dr Miguel Angel Granado, director general of animal health of the Venezuelan Agriculture and Livestock Ministry arrived in Paraguay on 16 August to purchase meat, cotton, soy, and timber. The mission, which will leave on Saturday 20 August, has already met with Agriculture Minister Hernando Bertoni and with members of the National Foreign Trade Council. [Summary] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 11 PY]

FOREIGNERS INVESTIGATED FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

PY231808 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich has stated that not only tourists but all foreigners in the country are being investigated to determine the purpose of their stay in the country and to prevent illegal activities. He added that the results of the investigations regarding organizations that receive foreign support will soon be released.

[Begin recording] [Question] How far have the investigations that President Belaunde requested regarding international organizations that [words indistinct] terrorist movement reached?

[Answer] The office of the comptroller general is thoroughly investigating the accounts of those persons and organizations that use these resources. We will disclose the results of these investigations as soon as they have concluded, but it should be pointed out that the Center for Research and Training [CIC] in Andahuaylas is being investigated because three persons who previously worked there have been arrested and charged with involvement in terrorist activities. Some witnesses have even informed that they saw these persons involved in terrorist activities at the 105 km marker of the Andahuaylas highway. We also have information on alleged plans to attack towns near Andahuaylas. All this is being investigated, and it will be disclosed as soon as the investigation is concluded.

[Question] Who is in charge of the organization you just mentioned [words indistinct]?

[Answer] This peasant organization [the CIC] receives support from several organizations to be able to carry out its activities. The CIC is currently developing a very interesting program in Andahuaylas, but this does not absolve it from the situation that has been created due to the participation of some of its members in terrorist activities. These persons are being investigated and have been arrested by the police.

[Question] Who is in charge of that center; who is its main mentor?

[Answer] The main mentor? Well, I could not say what his name is, but one of the arrested persons is (Lambruschini Canessa). [end recording]

GOVERNMENT ASKS MEDIA TO REPORT NEWS ACCURATELY

PY232325 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1720 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 23 Aug (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government will bring to trial the sectors of the media that do not accurately report on issues such as subversion or other national problems, because inaccurate reporting is "concealed support" for subversion. This announcement was made by Interior Minister Luis Percovich, who made it clear that the measure should not be viewed as a threat to the freedom of the press in the country. Percovich said that the alleged distortions and lies attributed to specific opposition sectors of the media "affect the country, the Armed Forces, the police, and the government authorities." Percovich said that distorting the news is considered by the government to be "concealed support for subversion."

The minister stressed that some sectors of the country's media report news that is later proven inaccurate. The minister asked the media to give accurate reports.

The minister added: "However, if the government should at any time take action against a specific medium, this will by no means entail repression against the freedom of the press. Moreover, the government's decision should not be viewed as a threat."

One of the sectors of the media cited by the minister, the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, today answers the accusation of "totally inaccurate headlines" in a lengthy article by Guillermo Thorndike, LA REPUBLICA's director. Thorndike requests respect for "the reputation of those who, by exercising the right to dissent and other rights inherent to every citizen, only seek to serve Peru."

Havana Cites Interior Minister

PA232050 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich has denied news reports that the Republican Guard troops in Ayacucho have gone on strike. Percovich said that false reports like this are intended to weaken the discipline and morale of Peru's police forces. The minister added that some media are providing a distorted image of the police and military forces that are fighting the illegal armed organization called the Shining Path. He accused these media of giving covert support to the subversives. Percovich said that the Interior Ministry will move against these media the moment it deems suitable to do so.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS OPENING OF ANDEAN MARKET

PY181323 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The industry, tourism, and integration minister has reported that the Peruvian Government will adopt protectionist measures if the Andean market is not completely opened. The minister cited the case of Venezuela, which closed its market to Peruvian products.

HAVANA REPORTS ON REBEL ACTIVITY IN CUZCO

PA200248 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] A newspaper in Lima was reported that more than 15 members of the Shining Path group were killed in heavy fighting with the Army near Cuzco. It has also been reported that members of the Shining Path group attacked a Ministry of Transportation and Communication camp also located near Cuzco. Recent dispatches from Ayacucho report that the body of Victor Lopez, a teacher kidnapped a few days ago by infantry men, has been found. Dispatches from Lima report that French citizen, Father (Jean Marie Mondet) has been released. Father (Mondet) was arrested several days ago, but he was released because his relationship with members of the clandestine groups was not proven.

BRIEFS

URUGUAYAN, DANISH AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED -- Lima, 10 Aug (AFP) -- Today President Fernando Belaunde received the credentials of Elbio Quintana Solari, the new Uruguayan ambassador to Peru, and of Finn Aasberg-Petersen, the new Danish concurrent ambassador to Argentina and Peru. The new Danish ambassador maintains his office in Buenos Aires. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1044 GMT 10 Aug 83 PY]

NATIONAL PROTEST DAY PREPARED FOR 25 AUGUST

PY240158 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1911 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 23 Aug (EFE) -- In a declaration of criticism and repudiation, the Uruguayan Government today referred to the hunger strike which has been observed by a group of clergymen for the past 13 days.

The Peace and Justice Movement of Uruguay is promoting a peaceful protest for Thursday, 25 August, Uruguay's Independence Day. In preparation for what has been dubbed an "event for reflection," two Catholic priests, Jorge Osorio and Luis Perez, began a "fasting protest" on 10 August.

As preparations for the day of protest are being made, clandestine pamphlets exhorting the population to turn off all lights at 2000 on Thursday, as a sign of repudiation of the military regime, are being distributed in Montevideo neighborhoods. Other popular demonstrations in suburban areas have been staged, especially by housewives banging pots and pans.

The police have been trying to identify the promoters of the demonstrations, but there have been no reports of arrests so far.

Uruguayans are being invited to devote themselves to reflection from 1700 to 1900 on Thursday, 25 August. The Peace and Justice Movement has invited them to stay home and write letters to President Gregorio Alvarez complaining about the country's situation.

BRIEFS

INFLATION, COST OF LIVING -- Montevideo, 7 Aug (AFP) -- According to a study made by the Statistics and Census Directorate, the rate of inflation reached 31.56 percent during the first 6 months of 1983. It was also learned from the study that the cost of living increased by 2.32 percent during July. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 7 Aug 83 PY]

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES -- Montevideo, 7 Aug (AFP) -- The Central Bank [BCU] has reported that the BCU's net international reserves totalled $129.8 million at the end of June compared to $202.5 million in December 1982, and to $494.3 million on 30 June 1982. The BCU also reported that the net international reserves dropped by 73.7 percent from 30 June 1982 to 30 June 1983, and by 35.9 percent during the first 6 months of 1983. The BCU added that gold reserves currently amount to 2,602,000 troy ounces compared to 2,858,000 troy ounces on 31 January 1983. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 7 Aug 83 PY]

PARTIES VOICE SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

PA231917 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Aug 83 p 10

[Article by Bertha Fernandez]

[Text] The Spanish-speaking peoples should unite to support Puerto Rico's independence, which will soon be discussed at the United Nations, to prevent that country from becoming one more star in the U.S. flag, PAN [National Action Party], PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], PDM [Mexican Democratic Party], and PRT [Workers' Revolutionary Party] have stated.

Alberto Ling Altamirano, a PAN deputy, stressed that "we agree, as usual, in supporting the self-determination of peoples, and in the case of Puerto Rico, it is necessary that, if it becomes independent, it is without pressure from the colonizer."

It is important for the Latin American peoples to support that nation, which will require economic aid to prevent it from falling into the Soviet orbit after gaining independence from U.S. control.

It would be advisable to hold a plebiscite in Puerto Rico, a free plebiscite, that is, one without U.S. manipulation.

Ling Altamirano said that the effort Puerto Rico has made to prevent acculturation, through an exemplary defense of its traditions and language, is significant. That is why it is very important that the Hispanic countries not abandon Puerto Rico, which, at this time of a "heated situation the Caribbean," urgently needs to be free, Ling Altamirano added. He said that country should not be abandoned; rather, it is necessary to provide support similar to that of the San Jose Pact.

We hope that the desire for liberty will be fulfilled, especially in this year of Simon Bolivar's bicentennial, Ling concluded.

Arturo Ayala of the PDM said that Puerto Rico's nationalist struggle for independence is just, because the Puerto Ricans are a Hispanic people, with deep historical and cultural traditions within the Ibero-American community. A plebiscite must be held so the Puerto Ricans themselves can decide their destiny.

We agree that the Caribbean island should cease being one more star for the United States. It is very important for the major international forum to decide on arbitration with formulas of conciliation, correcting the neglect and colonization to which those people have been subjected by the United States.

The nationalist spirit is emerging, and we are on the side of our brothers in race and religion, discriminated against in their own land.

Ivan Garcia Solis of the PSUM stressed that Puerto Rico's right to self-determination is unquestioned, and that this is both historical and topical. How wonderful that at the highest international forum, that people's need for self-determination will be confirmed, he said.

That country's solution cannot be, Garcia Solis said, to join the United States, as that nation has said on several occasions.

Central America's problems have made us forget this latent conflict. It is necessary to exert more pressure to promote respect, guarantee autonomy, and condemn U.S. hegemonic policies.

Pedro Penaloza of the PRT said: We are supporters of the self-determination of peoples as a reality, not only when U.S. interests are affected. For a long time, the U.S. attitude has been that of the colonizer, arrogantly depriving those people of self-determination. The Mexican Government must confirm its support for Puerto Rico's self-determination and demand that this be from more than just the diplomatic point of view.

BOND ISSUE TO COMPENSATE FORMER BANK SHAREHOLDERS

FL230150 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 21 Aug 83

[By Mariela Chazaro Argudin]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 21 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- The Secretariat of Finance announced today that as of 25 August the former shareholders of 11 of the nationalized banks may exchange their expropriated shares for bonds at bank offices and exchange houses designated by the Trusteeship for Paying Bank Compensation (FIBA).

The Secretariat explained that the payment of the shareholders of this group of banks is an important step in the compensation process since it represents 73 percent of the accountable capital of the nationalized banks adjusted to 31 August 1982. It is important, the Secretariat insisted, the compensation payments be made with federal government resources and not with those of the banks.

The bonds will have a nominal value of 100 pesos each, will bear interest, and will be guaranteed by the Mexican Government.

Bankers Study Compensation

FL230200 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2129 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 22 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Former Mexican bankers held a closed-door meeting to study the first phase of the bank compensation -- amounting to the equivalent of just under $478 million -- announced today by the Secretariat of Finance.

BRIEFS

NEW PSUM OFFICIALS -- The Central Committee of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico has elected its new officials. Pablo Gomez is the new secretary general, while the Political Commission is composed of the following members: Valentin Campa, Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo, Ivan Garcia Solis, Jorge Alcocer, Rolando Cordera, Eduardo Gonzalez, Sabino Hernandez, Eduardo Montes, Pablo Pascual, Marcos Leonel Posadas, Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, Adolfo Sanchez, Manuel Stephens Garcia, Gerardo Unzueta, Miguel Angel Velazco, and Arturo Whaley. Jorge Alcocer, Sabino Hernandez, Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, Jesus Sosa Castro, Manuel Stephens, and Jose Woldenberg are the new members of the Central Committee Secretariat. Ivan Barcia Solis was elected secretary general of the PSUM for Mexico City. [Summary] [Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 13 PA]

PAREDES DISCUSSES POLITICAL VIEWS, POLICY ISSUES

PA231437 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Interview with retired Panamanian General Ruben Dario Paredes, a presidential candidate in the 1984 elections, by an unidentified reporter, on 22 August; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] General, last weekend you made important statements to the country. To delve more deeply into those statements, we would like to know your political views.

[Paredes] I am a Panamanian of the center-right. I believe in progressive politics and in democracy. I also believe in the right of those men and women seeking solutions to their problems. Basically, I want democracy to be respected and to continue in our country.

[Reporter] General, you said that you would run with a platform of political parties. Can you reveal which parties support you, and what political commitments are involved?

[Paredes] I do not wish to speak of this today. I hope it will be made public on Wednesday which parties will be supporting my candidacy as announced last weekend.

[Reporter] You met with Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party. Could you tell us something about that meeting?

[Paredes] Mr Cochez had been seeking a meeting for the past month and, as a gentleman, I felt I should accommodate him. We met on the day I retired in El Valle de Anton. It was a talk between gentlemen. It was a good meeting. He said it all, and I have nothing to add.

[Reporter] Do you view Dr Arnulfo Arias as a possible political adversary?

[Paredes] He definitely is an adversary. I would like to have him as an adversary. I need opposition. Democracy needs this encounter between two strong candidates so that in the end there will be no doubt that we had pure, elegant, civil elections. May the best man win. We do need an adversary of his status, and I hope he will be the adversary.

[Reporter] General, what is your opinion of the electoral code?

[Paredes] I think it is good. However, there are exceptions to everything. I believe that the double residency should have been left in, especially in those cases where there is no doubt, for example, a person who is born in a town -- not the capital city -- where his roots are and where his parents still live. Even though he does not live in that town, he does visit it, his friends are there, and his political foundation is there. In those cases the double residency should be respected. A legislator works at the national level, and if there is any doubt, the people should say whether they want that candidate. I believe the law lacks that facility. It is now somewhat restrictive; however, I do believe it is the best law we have had with regard to electoral codes.

[Reporter] Your possible political adversary has aligned himself with the United States in the Central American conflict. What is your position?

[Paredes] Panamanians are traditional friends of the United States. Relations between the United States and the National Guard and the Panamanian people are good. Relations between the two countries have improved in the past 2 years. We believe they feel the same way. All we expect from them is mutual respect. But we are with them; we are their friends and allies.

[Reporter] If you win the presidency, will you maintain or broaden diplomatic relations with communist countries, such as the USSR?

[Paredes] I think it would be wrong to promote relations with the PRC or the USSR. The world is in such a state of confusion and so afflicted by conflicts, struggles, and fights that we, the Panamanians, must define ourselves. We must choose sides. We are on the side of the Western world, of which the logical leader is the United States. We cannot be on both sides. We belong to the Western world of America, and we are on the side of the United States.

[Reporter] How do you feel now that you are a presidential candidate and are practically in the political arena?

[Paredes] I feel very optimistic. I am holding a series of talks with some of the republic's orgnizations that can contribute to the fight against unemployment, hunger, and poverty. For example, I have already met with representatives of the tourism industry this morning. I plan to meet with professional groups such as businessman, the Chamber of Commerce, the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists, CONEP [National Council of Private Enterprise], important guilds such as those representing physicians, the bar association, engineers, nurses, and workers. I plan to talk with the Tripartite Commission that is reviewing the Labor Code. I also plan to visit with peasants and collect additional information to complete the government program that is being drafted.

[Reporter] Regarding your family, what has their reaction been to your leaving the National Guard to take up another activity that demands all your attention?

[Paredes] There is some disapproval within my family because they, especially my wife, were counting on my spending more time at home. But I have continued working since my retirement as if nothing had changed. I believe that a good Panamanian who sees problems in daily events and on the country's horizon, who believes he can solve them, and who feels a duty to his country, must fulfill that duty to the nation, to the Republic of Panama, to the country we all love. That is what I am doing.

[Reporter] Do you have a special message for the country?

[Paredes] I want the people to have faith and national unity, if not absolute unity. We will accomplish a great deal, especially for those in need, to meet their needs, to educate their children, and to live with dignity in Panamanian society. Have faith in us. We, together with many other Panamanians, will ensure that all will go well. I hope we will meet again soon. I thank Channel 13.

PRD ON PAREDES' CANDIDACY, PARTIES' ALLIANCE

PA230411 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party's (PRD) National Executive Committee (CEN) met this morning to assess the statement made by retired General Ruben Dario Paredes on national television over the weekend.

PRD Secretary General Rigoberto Paredes met with CEN members Gerardo Gonzalez, Alfredo Oranges, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel de Jesus Arauz, Manuel Balbino Moreno, and Ovidio Diaz to exchange impressions of Paredes' announcement that he will participate in the upcoming elections as the presidential candidate for a government of great national unity. The PRD directors also talked about the meetings that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will hold with opposition political leaders.

PRD Secretary General Rigoberto Paredes made the following statement about General Ruben Dario Paredes' possible candidacy for the presidency and about the meetings between General Noriega and opposition leaders:

[Begin recording] [Rigoberto Paredes] This announcement was no suprise to the PRD. For months now the PRD has been proclaiming General Paredes' candidacy in every corregimiento, district, and province where the CEN has held meetings.

This is a time for great rejoicing. Our members had no other candidate. He is and has always been our candidate. His decision only confirms our expectations, and, I repeat, our party has long been proclaiming this. We are already making plans for our convention, during which, before more than 15,000 people, our party and its directors will officially propose Gen Ruben Dario Paredes.

[Unidentified reporter] Professor Paredes, what is your opinion of the meetings that Gen Noriega has announced he will hold with opposition leaders?

[Paredes] I think that this is great. When Gen Noriega recently took command, he announced that he would ensure peace in this country. He said that he would guarantee clean, free, and democratic elections, and he is probably meeting with these parties to confirm this guarantee, one of order, democracy, electoral purity, and peace for the country. A National Guard commander has a very big task on his shoulders, a great responsibility to the country, particularly in Panama, where it has been said -- and we all agree -- that the National Guard is nothing more than the people in uniform. Therefore, Noriega, as the leader of these uniformed people, is guaranteeing all sectors of our people that the 1984 elections will be pure and clean. I also believe that it is important to point out that a commander, beyond guaranteeing security, peace, and order, must guide his troops and officers. When meeting with political parties or any other organizations, he is giving his office the character that it should have before the people and social organizations -- and this includes the political parties -- and any other organizations that expect him to fulfill his mission patriotically. And yet, the National Guard must remain objective; Gen Noriega is very aware of this. So what Noriega is actually doing is to guarantee impartiality, not only during the 1984 elections but in all political activities.

[Reporter] Professor Paredes, there is talk of a possible coalition among the parties that would support Gen Paredes. What is the PRD's stand on this?

[Paredes] It is very important to clear this up, and I thank you for asking the question. This has nothing to do with a coalition of parties. Some people have put it like this, but that is not correct. We are talking about a possible alliance of parties. I would like to tell you that Gen Paredes will be proposed by a number of parties other than the PRD. The PRD decided on his candidacy long ago and, as I have already mentioned, we will hold our congress soon. Any other party that may feel that this candidate fills the requirements demanded by the people for the person who will lead them in 1984 will do the same. Since there are several parties proposing him, this could become an alliance of parties supporting Gen Paredes' candidacy. Each party will propose him at its own time and in accordance with party statutes and the new electoral law. Postulations by the parties will be the free decision of each of those parties.

When people speak of a coalition, it sounds as though all the parties will join to create one party. This is not what will happen. Each party will remain independent, and once they propose Gen Paredes, then we will support him together and carry out a great campaign to elect him to the presidency; not as a coalition, however, but as an alliance of parties. [end recording]

ESCALONA ON LIBERAL SUPPORT FOR ARIAS CANDIDACY

PA191725 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The Liberals led by Dr Arnulfo Escalona would support Dr Arnulfo Arias as a presidential candidate if he is nominated by some opposition front, Dr Escalona said when approached by this station.

[Begin recording] [Escalona] As president [as heard] of the Liberal Party, I can tell you that the presidential candidacy of Dr Arias would be no surprise, because anyone who is active in politics seeks the highest office. In Dr Arias' case, he has been president three times, so it is not strange that he should again become the Authentic Panamenist Party's candidate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Dr Escalona, there is also talk of the eventual formation of a Liberal Party headed by you and including all your followers within traditional liberalism. Should that party be formed, would you form an alliance with Dr Arias, if he becomes a presidential candidate?

[Escalona] It is most clear to us that the government has lost the people. The government has lost the man on the street, and we, the opposition parties, will win both the administration and the 1984 elections. I am aware that the Panamanian people want a change, and that change is possible only by remaining in the opposition. You may rest assured that Panamanian liberalism will remain in the opposition, because this is the only way to satisfy the people.

This is already evident: Every opposition party convention has been successful with regard to attendance and enthusiasm. Meanwhile, the conventions held by the parties that endorse the official candidacies are pitiful, because they do not attract people and lack enthusiasm a mere 9 months away from the elections. The Panamanian people have become convinced that there is polarization in this country: continuism in the hands of the official sector, and change in the hands of the opposition. People are tired of continuism and want a change. As a member of the opposition, liberalism favors change.

[Correspondent] Do you think Dr Arias could represent change?

[Escalona] The opposition will have its candidate. Dr Arias has been president of this country on three different occasions. He has won his elections cleanly, and he is still very much interested in ruling this country. He could be one of the candidates. Why not? And if he is chosen by the opposition parties, you can be sure that he will be our candidate.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

OPPOSITION PARTY OPPOSES ELECTORAL LAW CHANGES

PA230023 Panama City YA in Spanish 22 Aug 83 p 7

["Declaration of the Panamanian Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA" -- date not given]

[Text] The approval and promulgation of the Electoral Law with changes and modifications introduced by the Legislation Council subjects the 1984 elections to a series of regulations that have been adapted to the vested interests of certain legislators.

The Legislation Council, two-thirds of which consists of PREFABRICATED [published in italics] members, has again demonstrated its irresponsibility when issuing laws and codes.

The insane decision to take away the natural right of numerous citizens to be elected and to represent the area where they were born, grew up, and were reared is not only antidemocratic but immoral, considering that its calculated purpose is to avoid competition with potential adversaries who would work to benefit communities in their respective areas.

To this end, the constitutional procedure for formulating national laws -- specifically the article on the residency of candidates for the legislature and other issues important to the creation of a free and authentically democratic electoral process, with participation by all Panamanians residing in the nation -- has been disregarded.

In fact, Article 4, among others, which was opposed by the president of the republic, failed to be approved by the constitutional process that requires a two-thirds majority vote of the council's membership. The subsequent request for the president to desist from his objections is not provided for by the Constitution; therefore, in my humble opinion, it is absolutely illegal.

However, this article is still included in the mutilated form of the law that was approved by the council; that is, the law as it stood before the president stated his objections, despite the fact that it failed to be ratified in the manner stipulated by the Constitution.

Such distortions must be noted by the country's constitutionalists and the body charged with safeguarding the national Constitution.

[Signed] Cesar Arrocha Graell, president

NEED FOR NATIONAL GUARD TO STAY APOLITICAL STRESSED

PA232313 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Aug 83 p 1-A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The National Guard commander assured the nation several days ago that the police force will cease to intervene in the country's political life and will concentrate its efforts entirely on its professional duties. It was announced on the "Everything for the Fatherland" Sunday television program, which is used by the National Guard for purposes that are more political than professional, that the National Guard High Command will invite opposition political party leaders to a meeting to "clear up doubts and uncertainties that could cast a pall over a serious and honest electoral campaign."

Although there is no provision for such a meeting within any strict interpretation of the "professional" duties of the National Guard, in these circumstances it is understandable that such meetings could legitimately be held in order to "clear up doubts and uncertainties" that exist for reasons that can be readily explained. However, it is not acceptable for the National Guard commander in chief and his General Staff to plan, as the "Everything for the Fatherland" editorial says they have, "to serve as mediators in order to preserve the electoral balance." Any mediation in this or any other issue necessarily implies a discussion of the causes of the controversy, which is not and cannot be a function of the National Guard. If democracy is to have any future in our country, the Armed Forces must stay totally and definitely out of political controversy, renouncing any right to electoral mediation, reconciliation, or arbitration, and allowing the Electoral Court, the judicial branch and/or the good judgment of the citizens themselves to resolve any conflicts that might arise among political adversaries.

CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES SCORED FOR ABUSES

PA201805 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 4

[Editorial: "A Farewell Fitting to the Job Done"]

[Text] The Fifth Assembly of Corregimientos Representatives -- ignoring the National Legislative Council, a later addition -- is about to end. How sad that a body conceived as the people's decisive voice in government has had so few achievements.

Although many of the 505 representatives took their posts with great enthusiasm and a sincere desire to work for their corregimientos and for the general welfare, we now hear many more voices of disapproval and criticism than of praise and recognition for a job well done.

This is sufficient reason for the representatives, as individuals and as a group, to make a conscientious analysis, understand the meaning of their job, and realize what credentials the posts require before the 1984 elections. But in addition, we are overwhelmed by a veritable epidemic of land transactions, of expediting permits for bars and entertainment houses, of provision of licenses -- all of which has been traditionally a well-paid service.

The shameless truth is that the representatives are taking advantage of their last days to obtain funds at any cost. Such abuse only causes resentment, in addition to a justified loss of prestige for the people's power.

If there is no way to change this "grab it while you can" attitude, at least we can be consoled by the thought that in the next elections voters will remember the names of those who insist on damagaing the image of the people's representatives.

COSTA RICA

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA231509 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade arrived in San Jose last night as part of his Central American tour. The purpose of his visit here is to make initial contact with the Costa Rican Government. After stops in San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, and Managua, Andrade arrived in a private plane and was greeted at the airport by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fermando Volio Jimenez.

Andrade brought greetings from the Guatemalan Government and noted that the goal of his tour is to learn the viewpoints of the other Central American Governments and to coordinate formulas for promoting detente in the region.

When asked if his government would continue the policy set forth by the foreign ministers of Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala concerning the Contadora Group, Andrade replied that Guatemala has traditionally been a pacifist nation and favors any initiative to restore peace and security in the countries of the area.

Noting Guatemala's interest in the efforts of the Contadora Group, Andrade said, however, that it is up to the peoples of Central America to find the formulas for peace in the region and the solution to the problems affecting these countries. All contributions, be they from the Contadora Group or from any government willing to cooperate in the efforts for peace being made by the Central American countries, would be well received, he added.

The Guatemalan Government is committed to continuing the process of returning to democratic institutionalization because we believe in democratic pluralism, the Guatemalan foreign minister explained. The Guatemalan foreign minister added that the new head of state, General Oscal Mejia Victores, has already told his people that he intends to continue the electoral process for a constituent assembly. As evidence of this commitment the new government has lifted the state of emergency to permit freedom of the press, and has also abolished the special courts, as the government is aware of the need to guarantee the right to legitimate defense.

The Guatemalan Government will maintain a constructive dialogue with Great Britain, as this has been beneficial. Andrade noted that talks have already been held at various levels. Dialogue is important, he pointed out, but it is necessary that good faith prevail at all times, particularly concerning the historic rights of Guatemala.

Referring to the elections, Andrade said the magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal have been given the necessary funds, and it will be up to that body to set the date for the elections. He noted, however, that the elections will not be called within the next 6 months as the new government does not constitute a change, but rather represents a substitution of personnel.

The new Guatemalan foreign minister believes that all Central American governments are concerned and aware of the seriousness of the situation, and Guatemala is sincerely interested in helping to find real detente. In view of the above, the Guatemalan official said he believes relations between Guatemala and Nicaragua will improve substantially following his visit to that country.

Andrade announced his plans to participate in the meeting of Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers that is to be held next month in Panama. He said Guatemala is not offering any specific initiatives, but will back any proposal intended to bring peace to the region.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA COMMENTS ON CONTADORA, REGIONAL ISSUES

FL231403 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 20 Aug 83

[By correspondent Marcos Sanchez]

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Salvadoran President Alvara Magana has described the efforts being made by the Contadora Group as positive, and said that his government has an advantage over the guerrillas. He expressed his belief that presidential elections can be held in El Salvador in March 1984.

In statements to Mexican journalists -- from NOTIMEX and official government television -- the provisional president of El Salvador said that:

The role of the Contadora Group will be positive as long as its objective is to serve as an instrument for rapprochement among the nations of Central America.

The situation in Central America has not worsened in the last few months.

The United States will not increase the number of military advisers in El Salvador and El Salvador will not request their intervention.

The Salvadoran Army has an advantage over the guerrillas.

The new Salvadoran constitution could be approved and signed by 5 November. Under the new constitution, the presidential elections could be held in March 1984.

The government expects to convince the revolutionary opposition of the Farabundo Marti Front and the Democratic Front to participate in the 1984 elections.

The presence of U.S. [Navy] ships off the coasts of the region and the holding of military maneuvers have caused a certain amount of tension and have led some to believe that something more serious might occur.

The Salvadoran Government has serious doubts about the sincerity of the Nicaraguan Government proposal to begin a dialogue with the countries of the area. In the next few months, Nicaragua will have to define its political line: It will either turn toward democratization or it will insist on its present line and lose the support of the European socialist countries.

In his statements, the provisional Salvadoran president expressed the opinion that complete agreement does not exist among the countries of the Contadora Group, although he conceded that their positions coincide on the general issues.

According to Magana, the establishment of the Contadora Group, which seeks to promote regional detente through negotiations, was improvised, although it is justified because the problems are considered serious and urgent solutions are required.

In the opinion of the Salvadoran head of state, a certain amount of frustration exists among those who expected quick results from the Contadora Group's negotiations. Nevertheless, he said that the meeting of Colombian, Mexican, Panamanian, and Venezuelan presidents on 17 July in Cancun (Mexico) introduced new ingredients and made new contributions that have mentally prepared the Central American governments to attend the next meeting.

The provisional Salvadoran president acknowledged that the four members of the Contadora Group agree that the problem belongs to the people of Central America and that it must be solved by them. However, if the Contadora Group countries attempt to become involved in mediation, they will meet with rejection.

The heads of government of the Contadora Group countries have kept in contact with him following last month's visit by Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, Magana said.

According to Magana, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has called him by telephone and has asked him to keep in touch to convey his ideas on the situation.

Regarding the U.S. military maneuvers in the region, Magana denied that these constitute a blockade of Nicaragua or mark either the beginning of an escalation or direct intervention.

He reaffirmed that the situation in the region has not worsened during the last few months and emphasized that his country did not request an increase in the number of U.S. advisers 6 months ago and will not do so now, since its position over the guerrillas is more favorable. He added that the civil war in his country is a Salvadoran conflict and that the Army is more effective in the struggle thanks to the new tactics and resources provided by the United States. He predicted that El Salvador's advantage will be greater by October 1983 when the deployment of soldiers trained in Georgia (United States) and Honduras begins.

Magana accused the Nicaraguan Government of being insincere in its proposal to begin a dialogue with the other Central American countries and believes that Nicaragua is trying to buy time.

He accused the Nicaraguan Government of having supplied the guerrillas with a sufficient quantity of arms between October 1982 and March 1983 in order to be able to feign innocenc and even repentance now. He added that the Sandinist government does not rationalize its decisions or opinions based on purely nationalistic interests, and that this leads him to further question the real purposes behind these proposals (for dialogue). Nevertheless, he believes that the Nicaraguan Government has adapted to the situation and recalled that important sectors of the Socialist International have questioned the path taken by Nicaragua.

On domestic affairs, Magana said that if the constitution is approved within 2 months, as expected, it could be signed on 5 November 1983. Therefore, the decision to hold elections might be made in December and the elections -- for president or for whatever other office -- could be held in March 1984.

He announced that the civil-military action plan will be extended throughout the country after being tested in San Vicente Department.

The situation is improving, Magana added, and said that he hoped to convince the opposition groups to participate in the 1984 elections.

Finally, Magana claimed that the FMLN and FDR are divided and that any moderate left is searching for political space to develop, which could happen in El Salvador [sentence as published].

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS, BRIEFS PRESS

PA232132 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Aug 83 pp 3, 17

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran visited El Salvador for a few hours yesterday. During that time, he met with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena and with Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana.

In a brief statement to the local and foreign press, the visitor explained that the new Guatemalan Government has never questioned the efforts of the Contadora Group. "On the contrary, we are willing to cooperate in every possible way to achieve peace in the region."

The Guatemalan foreign minister also reaffirmed that his country's current government, led by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, has good relations with both the Salvadoran Government and with the other governments of the region.

The foreign minister politely declined to comment on the work being done by Richard Stone, President Reagan's ambassador at large for Central America, or on the commission led by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who, together with a group of prominent U.S. citizens, will present a diagnosis in December of the economic, political, and social situation prevailing in the area.

When the foreign minister was asked about the deaths of four Salvadorans who were being tried by Guatemalan military courts, he said that he was not aware of the specifics of the case but noted that the current government has already stopped the work of all military courts. "Therefore," he stated, "if the Salvadorans were being tried by military courts, their cases must now be heard by regular courts."

Foreign Minister Andrade also said that Guatemala is interested in achieving democracy.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena told the visitor that the people and government of El Salvador hope to maintain the best possible relations of friendship with Guatemala.

The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry announced that the Guatemalan foreign minister had come from Honduras, where he met with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. At around 1430, Andrade departed for Nicaragua, where he will meet with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON NICARAGUA, GUERRILLAS

PA231755 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Salvadoran guerrillas continue receiving arms from Nicaragua, Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandro Gomez Vides confirmed today. The official reported:

[Begin recording] Nicaragua has continued to send weapons to the guerrilla forces, and as long as that arms traffic and Nicaragua's interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador continue, it will be very difficult to achieve peace in Central America. The Nicaraguans do not agree with this conclusion because they are trying to portray the Central American problem as a Honduran-Nicaraguan problem. This was the position put forth by the Nicaraguan regime in the last document that it submitted to the Contadora Group, and it is incorrect.

Nicaragua has problems with all its neighbors, not only Honduras. It has problems with El Salvador because it interferes in the internal affairs of that country and sends weapons to the guerrilla groups there, with Costa Rica over navigation in the San Juan River, and also with Guatemala. That is why the four other Central American countries consider and insist on the Contadora initiative being considered in a global, multilateral context. [end recording]

Gomez Vides stated that the Salvadoran guerrilla forces are being defeated following a change in military tactics:

[Begin recording] It is evident that the military activity of the guerrillas has dropped off considerably. They continue sabotage actions, but major operations of the type seen in the past, such as the occupation of Berlin, for example, no longer occur. In fact, the guerrillas are now retreating in areas -- such as Morazan -- that were once their strong points. All these things indicate that the fighting power of the guerrillas has definitely decreased. [end recording]

On the work of the Contadora Group for the pacification of Central America, the Salvadoran deputy foreign minister said: [Begin recording] I believe the Contadora forum is important, and we support it. I believe that all its members have the best intentions. The results of the Contadora initiative will depend to a great extent on the position adopted by Nicaragua, because if Nicaragua realizes that if it wishes to live in peace with its neighbors it must abstain from interfering in their internal affairs, then the Contadora initiative will be successful on behalf of peace in the area. However, if the Nicaraguan position continues to be inflexible, then the Contadora Group will fail, and we will have to look for some other forum for continued discussion of the situation. [end recording]

GUERRILLA ATTACKS, POWER OUTAGES REPORTED

PA232332 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] National guardsmen repelled a guerrilla attack yesterday afternoon in the area known as La Bolsa, in San Nicolas Lempa jurisdiction, San Vicente Department, near the now destroyed Oro Bridge. The national guardsmen fought the guerrillas for an hour in the area where they were ambushed. The rebels left without accomplishing their objective, which was to annihilate the National Guard patrol.

According to official reports, two of the guardsmen were wounded. There were also casualties among the guerrillas, as was indicated by blood stains found in the area.

This is the first time in 5 weeks that guerrillas have entered this sector, which is under the Army's control.

Meanwhile, Civil Defense troops in Ciudad Delgado repelled a rebel attack last night near the neighborhood of Santa Alegria.

Reports state that at about 2100, a Civil Defense patrol caught a group of unidentified armed individuals in the neighborhood. When ordered to stop, the group opened fire with automatic weapons, opening a firefight of some 20 minutes. No casualties were suffered in the incident.

Sources in the Santa Alegria neighborhood have reported that heavily armed men are frequently seen in this area at night, when they come down from the nearby mountains. The sources added that they do not know whether these men live in these nearby places or merely use them as escape routes.

Spokesmen for the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, CEL, confirmed today that six departments were without power last night. The four eastern departments, as well as La Paz and Chalatenango in the central part of the country, were left without electricity when the guerrillas resumed sabotage actions against the electricity system, according to official reports. This morning, with the assistance of a CEL helicopter, crews of workers were already determining which areas were affected by the attacks, so that they might immediately begin to repair the towers and cables that were destroyed by the leftists' action.

Meanwhile, early this morning, FMLN guerrillas staged a 3-hour attack against the security posts and installations at three strategic bridges on the Panamerican Highway, which is the country's main route to the east. Official reports indicate that the bridges, near Santa Cruz Michapa, came under guerrilla attack, but that after 3 hours of fighting the rebels failed to destroy the bridges. Military sources in Cojutepeque have not disclosed whether any guards were killed or wounded in the attack, or whether the guerrillas suffered any casualties.

ARMY DESTROYS REBEL CAMP ON EL CUMBO HILL

PA232202 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Aug 83 p 21

[Text] Weapons, ammunition, bombs, uniforms, food, medicine, and various kinds of war supplies were confiscated by the Army yesterday when it destroyed a terrorist camp near El Cumbo Hill, in San Vicente Department.

Soldiers carrying out search operations in different parts of southeastern San Vicente Department clashed with guerrillas who were headed toward El Burro Bridge; once the El Cumbo Hill camp was located, the fighting grew more intense. As of noon yesterday, the extremists were still being pursued and were said to be headed toward different coastal areas and lower Lempa.

Military sources also noted yesterday at noon that two clashes were reported early yesterday morning in different parts of San Vicente Department. One of the clashes took place in the jurisdiction of Tecoluca and the other on El Cumbo Hill and in the surrounding area in San Vicente Department. The number of casualties on both sides is unknown.

FMLN CLAIMS SABOTAGE OF RAILWAY BRIDGE

PA230335 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The FMLN has once again sabotaged a railroad bridge in San Vicente Department. We are trying right now to contact our forces in that department to get full information on the sabotage of the very important El Burro railroad bridge, over which railroad traffic from San Salvador to the port of La Union passes.

We recall that we first blew up this bridge in October 1982. It took the government 3 months and more than 300,000 colones to repair it. According to the dictatorship's spokesmen, it will take them more than 3 months to rebuild it this time; until they do, railroad traffic between the east and west of El Salvador is completely paralyzed.

The destruction of El Burro represents a harsh blow to the plans devised by the Americans, according to which this part of San Vicente Department was already to have been cleared of guerrillas.

Similarly, this is a hard blow to the dictatorship's war economy, since it will sustain losses in the millions, and further weaken its ability to survive and proving its inability to repress our people.

With our constant sabotage, we are consuming the millions that Reagan is pouring in to sustain the dictatorship. We are in a war to the death against the oligarchy and U.S. intervention. For this reason, our people use the legitimate weapon of sabotage to definitively defeat the imperialist enemy.

For the recovery of our democratic rights! For the recovery of our sovereignty and national independence!

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS; DEPUTY TAKES OFFICE

PA240227 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0015 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Upon returning today from a quick tour of four Central American countries, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran refused to comment, for the time being, on the results of his trip.

The Guatemalan diplomat was at his office today to witness the swearing in of the new deputy foreign minister, Federico Fahsen, but refused to make a statement for newsmen, promising to hold a press conference tomorrow, 24 August.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Fahsen said that he will try to improve Guatemala's image abroad.

RADIO EDITORIAL ATTACKS HONDURAS' PAZ BARNICA

PA232302 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Station editorial: "From Surrender to Shamelessness"]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has said that he considers the visit which U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger will pay to his country in September as a great privilege.

It has been officially reported that Weinberger will visit Honduras in order to evaluate the results of the military maneuvers that the United States has been carrying out there since 5 August and which may continue until March of next year. This operation involves 6,000 U.S. troops as part of an awesome display of ground, air, and sea forces.

Paz Barnica's actions as foreign minister have shown him to be an ambitious and opportunistic creole, willing to crawl to the lowest levels before his foreign masters, who don't give a damn about national sovereignty, thus permitting his own country to be turned into a shooting range, an exercise field for maneuvers, and a base for the intimidating and warmongering policies of a foreign power.

Unfortunately, specimens of his type have been common throughout Central America's tragic history. One need only look back to those prominent Nicaraguans who called on William Walker and his filibusters in the last century and delivered their country, signed and sealed, to those crooks from the North.

This sad tale, however, had a very edifying finale: All the patriots of Central America united their forces in battle against the U.S. filibusters. Juan Santamaria, the Costa Rican hero, gloriously offered his life in that struggle, and in that same campaign we must also emphasize the courageous participation of Marshal Zabala, the honorable Guatemalan military man. One must not forget, either, that it was in Honduras where William Walker, the Yankee slave trader, paid for his crimes before an avenging firing squad.

It is always healthy to keep the lessons of history in mind, isn't it, Mr Edgardo Paz Barnica?

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA: DETENTE 'EMERGING' IN REGION

PA231652 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Douglas Membreno; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Membreno] Has the situation with Nicaragua improved following the decrease in that country's constant harassment actions?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, there has been a decrease in the number of border -- territorial as well as maritime -- incidents in the past few weeks. There have been three incidents provoked by the Nicaraguan Government against Honduras, for which we lodged pertinent protest notes through the usual diplomatic channels. In addition, we sent notes to the OAS and the United Nations. I feel that a climate of regional detente is emerging. Several factors have contributed to this, including the Contadora Group negotiations.

[Membreno] Do you believe that the military maneuvers which Honduras is carrying out with the United States could be contributing to this change in attitude?

[Paz Barnica] These are joint exercises between the U.S. and Honduran armies. They have been held since 1975, as stipulated in the 1954 Technical Military Assistance Treaty. These exercises are of a dissuasive nature and are aimed particularly at training the Honduran Armed Forces. Logically, if the Honduran Armed Forces are being trained for the purposes of self-defense, and if their instruction is defensive rather than offensive in nature, I believe this contributes to detente.

[Membreno] What did you discuss with your Guatemalan courterpart?

[Paz Barnica] Our talks were very lengthy and fruitful. I think he is a man of very good intentions. He talked about some of the domestic measures which the new government in his country has implemented, such as the announcement of an amnesty, the speeding up of the electoral process in Guatemala so that the people can choose their own destiny, and the suspension of the special courts. As for international affairs, he explained that while Guatemala will maintain an independent policy, it will seek solidarity with the other countries of Central America. He added that they will participate in the negotiations that fall within the framework of the Contadora Group's efforts, in coordination with other countries and taking into account, as we have repeatedly said, that it is up to Central Americans to solve Central American problems.

POWERFUL BOMB ROCKS SAN PEDRO SULA 23 AUGUST

PA231246 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Alfonso Anariva Calix report from San Pedro Sula -- recorded]

[Text] Right now we are only a few meters away from San Pedro Sula Cathedral. Troops have been mobilized in downtown San Pedro Sula following the explosion of a bomb that rocked the entire city approximately 10 minutes ago, as the authorities have reported.

The explosion took place a few minutes after 2100. The powerful bomb exploded in an abandoned building under construction, located on 1st Street and 3rd Avenue, across from the San Pedro Sula Cathedral, the Barahona Park, and the main building of the Atlantida Bank, only a few meters from San Pedro Sula's municipal offices.

The downtown area has been paralyzed. This is the situation we are seeing right now. There are units from the Public Security Forces and the Department of National Investigation [DIN] in the area. These elements are under the command of Captain Alvaro Flores Ponce and Transit Chief David Abraham Mendoza, who are also on the scene. The authorities are going inside the building. It has been confirmed that the bomb exploded on one of the floors of the abandoned building.

DIN elements are investigating the explosion that affected the entire city of San Pedro Sula and caused alarm among the citizens, especially those living in the downtown area, since buildings shook as a result of the powerful explosion that took place a few minutes ago in the country's industrial capital.

Troops continue to arrive in the downtown area. DIN elements are checking throughout the building and have surrounded nearby buildings as well.

Cinchoneros Claim Responsibility

PA231434 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] A powerful dynamite charge exploded last night in the (Chale) building in San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras. A Honduran guerrilla group, Cinchonero, has taken credit for the explosion. The group called Honduran radio stations to claim responsibility for this action.

We have more information from Marco Antonio Mejia, a newsman from Tegucigalpa's Voz de Honduras Network.

[Begin recording] [Mejia] According to reports released this morning here in Tegucigalpa, the Lorenzo Zelaya Command of the Cinchonero group called many news media, especially the radio stations and newspapers, in San Pedro Sula to claim responsibility for the explosion. This was reported this morning here in Tegucigalpa.

[Unidentified reporter] Was anyone injured? Was there any material damage?

[Mejia] No one was injured. As for material damage, no assessment can be made since the explosion took place in a building where construction was stopped 5 years ago because of financial problems. The building is in downtown San Pedro Sula. [end recording]

SALVADORAN PLANE SAID TO BOMB BORDER AREA

PA232219 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Julio Armando Valdez report]

[Excerpt] Once again, the nation's sovereignty has been violated. Dr Jorge Pineda Arita, National Party deputy for Ocotepeque Department, tells us about the attack that took place on our national territory:

[Begin recording] [Pineda] I reported earlier that the Salvadoran Army, or rather, the National Guard, carried out a massacre in the town of Mercedes, in Jocotan. This time it was the village of Laguna Seca in Ocotepeque, which was bombed by a light plane 2 weeks ago. The plane dropped six bombs. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but the home of Armando Romero was destroyed. We are reporting this in the hope that our government will at least file a token protest with the Salvadoran Government over these incursions, which make the lives of our people in the border areas more tense. Unfortunately, no gringo lives there who might get killed and thereby produce a vociferous protest from the foreign secretary.

[Unidentified reporter] Did this bombing take place in the border area?

[Pineda] Yes, only a few meters from the border. It is a large village called Laguna Seca, which is located near Nuevo Ocotepeque. There is no reason for these continuous violations of our territory. As I have reported before, both the Army and the guerrillas operate there, bringing sorrow to the border residents.

NICARAGUA

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS WITH D'ESCOTO

PA231722 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0330 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Guatemalan foreign minister was in Managua this afternoon and met with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. He said his government opposes the presence of foreign military bases in Central America.

More on Visit

PA232101 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala's foreign minister has said in Managua that his government will respect the people's right to self-determination. He spoke for 90 minutes with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman.

Guatemala is prepared to hold a constructive and sincere dialogue, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade has said in Managua. He announced that coupist Oscar Mejia Victores' government seeks rapprochement with the other Central American countries and supports the Contadora Group's peace efforts. Foreign Minister andrade made this statement last night at the Sandino airport after meeting for 2 hours and 30 minutes [as heard] with Nicaragua's foreign minister. Andrade said that Mejia Victores' government will maintain a policy of respect for other nations' sovereignty and self-determination.

The Guatemalan foreign minister also said that his government has decided to seek rapprochement with the area's other governments, in an effort to find peace and detente. Guatemala is interested in peace, Andrade said. He noted that his country will not serve as a military base for anyone. He hinted that although Mejia Victores is a military man and is close to the United States, he respects the sovereignty and self-determination of other countries.

Foreign Minister Andrade's statements sound very different from those made by his boss, who has sided with the United States completely.

SPANISH EMBASSY PROTESTS DERISIVE PUBLICATION

PA231641 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1453 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Spanish Embassy in Managua has protested to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry about a publication in LA SEMANA COMICA of this capital, in which the diplomatic mission "was ridiculed."

The Spanish ambassador here, Mariano Baselga, in a note to the Foreign Ministry said that he "understands and admits that political satire practiced with respect and intelligence may contribute to the entertainment of the citizens."

"However," the ambassador adds, "I cannot accept or tolerate the use of symbols, emblems, national institutions such as the Spanish Coat of Arms (outdated), or the embassy itself to be ridiculed and used in a vulgar attack against a priest." [Not further identified] The diplomat notes that "government censure should safeguard the dignity and respect a diplomatic mission deserves, especially that of a country that has proven so generous toward the people and Government of Nicaragua."

LA SEMANA COMICA, according to the report, has been suspended for 1 month by the Sandinist authorities.

The Spanish Embassy also announced another protest for slogans painted "in huge red letters" on the walls of the Spanish Consulate in the city of Leon. The slogans, written in the Basque language, read "Long Live Military ETA."

LA PRENSA NOT PUBLISHED DUE TO CENSORSHIP

PA240234 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0028 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, director of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, has reported that the newspaper did not circulate today, Tuesday, because of delays produced by government censorship and because of the prohibition on the publication of "important material." The editor of the Managua evening newspaper said that the paper's board of directors decided not to put out the edition because the authorities did not return the material from the censors at 1430 (2030 GMT) as has been agreed.

Chamorro Barrios indicated that the pages that were reviewed by the censor were returned at about 1515 (2115 GMT), which the management felt was "too late" to publish the paper. "LA PRENSA is not a newspaper to be placed in a warehouse but one that should circulate during the day," the director of the newspaper stressed to ACAN-EFE.

Another reason that LA PRENSA did not circulate was that the government did not authorize the publication of an "energetic protest" from the Apostolic Nunciature in Nicaragua on the content of the last issue of the magazine LA SEMANA COMICA. In its protest to the Managua Foreign Ministry, the nunciature stated that several articles and cartoons published in the magazine "contain vulgar and repeated accusations and offenses" against a priest of the Managua archdiocese. "The tone of that publication profoundly hurts the deepest religious feelings of Nicaragua's Catholic people, feelings that make them good citizens who fulfill their duties to society," the nunciature stated.

SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY LEADER ON PARTIES LAW

PA192119 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Aug 83

["Tightening the Screw" program with guest Adan Fletes, president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, and participants Guillermo Alvarez Montalvan, Emigidio Suarez, Maria Lourdes, and Oscar Alvares Montiel; individual questioners not identified: intercepted in progress -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the importance -- to your party and to the people of Nicaragua -- of the political parties law, which has been approved in spite of U.S. imperialism's aggression, economic pressures, and the defamations and lies spread abroad?

[Fletes] As it currently stands, I believe that the political parties law is an important advance compared to the original plan presented by the FSLN. It undoubtedly represents an important, qualitative advance. However, for the Social Christian Party, it is still not a democratic law, because Article 15, for instance, establishes a council to regulate political parties, and this council is formed in such a way as to give the FSLN absolute control over both the decisions made and everything discussed by the council.

We think there is still a chance to amend that article, but we have also said that the decisions made by the national council of political parties should not affect the doctrine, ideology, or policy of the parties, and this is not made sufficiently clear in Article 16.

Once the law on political parties is submitted to the Government Junta -- I think that is the procedure -- there will be a chance for the Government Junta to consider these views in order to amend the law.

[Question] You say that the FSLN places itself in a superior position, but since it led the people's struggle isn't it entitled to a place above the other traditional parties which, as history shows, merely orchestrated maneuvers and political agreements and yet are now making demands?

[Fletes] You force me to point out another truth: The FSLN did not defeat Somoza. Somoza was defeated by all the people of Nicaragua. All the unions and political organizations that waged a struggle against Somoza also helped defeat him.

SOMOZIST CAMP DESTROYED; 30 REBELS KILLED

PA221515 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] The destruction of a camp of mercenary Somozist guardsmen at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border in the north, and the deaths of 30 counterrevolutionaries were reported yesterday by Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez at Masaya's Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Square.

Tirado Lopez, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, told a crowd of over 10,000 people attending the funeral rites for 9 fighters of Battalion 19-66 who fell in Zelaya that the Sandinist People's Army conducted a special operation on Saturday.

He said that further information regarding the exact place and other details of the incident would be released in the next few hours.

COMMANDER TORRES REPORTS INCREASED FIGHTING

PA231858 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Sandinist People's Army's (EPS) political section, yesterday said that in the past few days the fighting has become more intense in northern Zelaya Department and in the country's south.

During a ceremony to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the heroic seizure of the National Palace -- today's Palace of the Revolution -- the Sandinist leader said that many counterrevolutionaries have died as a result of this Somozist escalation.

Here is Commander Torres: [Begin recording] There have been increased activities in the country's north -- in northern Zelaya Department -- and in the south, where the bands of traitor Eden Pastora operate.

Thus, new lives have been generously given to the fatherland in defense of its integrity lives of people who now are part of our country's history; lives of men who have written, with their blood, on the glorious pages of the history of our fatherland. Many counterrevolutionaries have been defeated. Some units have been disbanded and others are being pursued by our EPS, Sandinist People's Militia, and glorious reserves. [end recording]

Criticizes Big Pine II

PA232234 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Sandinist People's Army political section, has said in Managua that the U.S.-Honduran Big Pine II naval maneuvers are a step toward escalation of the U.S. war on Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan leader said that in the next few weeks, the acts of aggression and sabotage against his country will increase.

HAVANA REPORTS 'MURDER' OF PEASANT FAMILY

PA192347 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have murdered a peasant couple and their three small children near the town of San Jose de Bocay, in Jinotega Department. According to reports, the anti-Sandinists threw hand grenades into the peasant dwelling and then fled toward Honduras.

'15 SEPTEMBER' REPORTS ON 'GENERAL OFFENSIVE'

PA211740 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- According to the rebel station Radio 15 September, the "Christian guerrillas" of the "Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today continued their general offensive in northern Nicaragua, with attacks in the departments of Jinotega and Madriz."

According to the station, the clashes between FDN commandos and Sandinist People's Army troops have become more intense in the last few hours, resulting in many casualties.

The "Diriangen" task force, led by Commander "Mike Lima," clashed with government troops on La Constancia Hill, near the area known as La Cimarrona, in Jinotega, the station reported. According to the station, the clash lasted over 6 hours, during which some 30 Sandinist soldiers were killed. The rebels did not report any casualties.

The Nicaraguan insurgents claimed that later the FDN patrols "Rafael" and "Ariel" engaged the regime's forces on La Constancia Hill and caused 46 casualties. The station added that two bloodhounds used by the Sandinist army to locate the rebel patrols were also killed in the clash.

According to 15 September, heavy fighting took place on Friday night in the area known as El Bramadero. The number of government casualties has not been determined because of the intensity of the battle.

State security agents made possible the capture of a militia commander known as "Luis," after they found that he had surrendered and turned his weapons over to an FDN patrol in Santa Elena, south of San Juan del Rio Coco, in Madriz.

The station claims that in the battles the FDN commandos have recovered a large amount of materiel, weapons, and ammunition, as well "as irrefutable evidence of the participation of foreign mercenaries alongside the Sandinist troops." Radio 15 September also denounced the "murder of peasants accused by the government's intelligence agents of collaborating with the insurrection, as well as the capture and torture of alleged relatives of rebel commandos."

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO AMERICAN LEGION SCORED

FL232000 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan today once again defended his policy in Central America and the arms race course he has set for his country. In a speech to the American Legion's annual convention in Seattle, Washington, Reagan said his economic and military program for Central America is necessary to promote democracy in that region which, according to him, is threatened by what he called the communist bloc.

True to his warmongering rhetoric, Reagan said peace should be built on strength, and in that sense criticized those who oppose his arms buildup and call for a freeze on nuclear arsenals. The White House chief called for the reinforcement of U.S. military power in his attempt to achieve superiority over the Soviet Union and break the existing balance.

U.S. CARIBBEAN EXERCISE 'ESCALATING' MILITARY PRESENCE

FL231446 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The United States will continue escalating its military presence in the Caribbean today when it begins its Redex-2 83 military exercises, in which 32 units will participate, including the aircraft carriers Independence and Kennedy.

The maneuvers, which will last until 17 September, and in which two British ships and one Netherlands ship -- the UK and the Netherlands are members of NATO -- will participate, will coincide with another U.S. air-naval deployment that will take place in the Caribbean and the Pacific off the coasts of Central America.

The main part of Redex-2 83 will take place near Puerto Rico at the very time its colonial status is being debated in the Decolonization Committee of the UN, despite pressures from the government in Washington.

U.S. PRODUCTION, USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONDEMNED

PA231228 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Aug 83

["World Event" commentary]

[Text] We all know that the United States has enough chemical weapons to destroy life on this planet. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration is carrying out plans to modernize this deadly arsenal. The budget the U.S. Government has assigned for the improvement of its chemical weapons was increased from $10 million in 1969 to $532 million in 1982, and there are plans to increase it to $1.4 billion by 1984.

The United States and its allies believe that they can wage and win a chemical war, although it is easy to see that such a war would mean the end of mankind.

International treaties dating from 1925 classify chemical weapons as lethal and nonlethal, but this distinction is difficult to apply to U.S. chemical weapons, which can affect future generations.

We have sufficient evidence of this in Southeast Asia. The United States waged the biggest chemical war in history there, particularly against Vietnam. This happened at the end of the 1960's and in the early 1970's.

The long-range genetic damage the Pentagon caused in Indochina is 10 times more serious than that inflicted upon the Japanese by the atomic bombs detonated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Another incredible fact is that the total amount of chemical products dropped over Vietnam equaled 4 kg per person. And it was not just the Vietnamese people who were affected by the chemical weapons; plants and animals also suffered the consequences of this plan of extermination.

Between 1961 and 1971, the Pentagon authorized the use of ultramodern herbicides and defoliants. Thousand of hectares of woodlands, jungle and crops were razed. The poisonous chemical of which 100,000 tons were dropped over Vietnam by the United States, with devastating and prolonged effects, was known as Agent Orange.

Most international observers agree that more than 500 tons of Agent Orange were used in South Vietnam alone, affecting over 60 percent of the land.

Among the harmful effects of Agent Orange, it damages human chromosomes and causes hereditary abnormalities. The result is an increase in prenatal disease and in the incidence of cancer. The offspring of people who were affected by Agent Orange in Vietnam are having the same problems as the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In addition, same 70,000 U.S. soldiers were affected by the chemical agents, the same that the U.S. Army dropped on Vietnam, and their children are suffering the hereditary consequences, too. Some veteran groups have complained that approximately 5,000 of their members are suffering from various types of cancer.

In other words, though the Vietnam war has ended, it has left a terrible heritage that remains a threat, but U.S. authorities do not seem to have learned a lesson. It has been learned that poisonous chemicals made in the United States are being used in El Salvador, and that scientific research is continuing in the production and storage of still more lethal substances.

Millions of dollars are being spent in the United States for this sinister enterprise that mankind should not and cannot tolerate.

POLISH PRESS WELCOMES FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA

FL232358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Polish national press today devoted considerable space to praising Polish-Cuban cooperation and the Cuban revolution's foreign policy on the occasion of the visit to Warsaw of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Malmierca, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, is on a 5-day visit in response to an official invitation extended by Stefan Olszowski, member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs.

The chief of the Cuban diplomatic corps will complete an extensive schedule of activities which include meetings, visits, and tours of Polish economic, historic, and educational centers. The largest Polish newspaper, TRYBUNA LUDU, carried an article entitled "Polish-Cuban Cooperation," which it described as fruitful, cordial, and friendly, noting that it expands year after year.

Warsaw Reportage on Visit

For Warsaw reports on the visit of Foreign Minster Malmierca to Poland, see the Poland section of the 24 August and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

ROMANIAN ENVOY READS NATIONAL HOLIDAY STATEMENT

FL231843 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1319 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Statement read by Romanian Ambassador to Cuba Gheorghe Dumitrache on the occasion of Romania's national holiday; in Romanian, translated by announcer -- live or recorded]

[Text] Dear viewers, dear Cuban friends: Every year on 23 August, the Romanian people enthusiastically greet their great national holiday. This year, 23 August marks the 39th anniversary of the revolution of the social, national, antifascist, and anti-imperialist liberation that opened a new era in Romania's history.

The Communist Party of Romania has the historic distinction that, under the very difficult conditions caused by the aggressive policy of Hitler's Germany, the unleashing of World War II, Romania's involvement in this war against the will of its people, and the establishment of a fascist military dictatorship, it found itself at the head of a struggle for the defense of the vital interests of the people and national integrity, and against war.

After the defeat of the fascist military government in our country on 23 August 1944, the Romanian Army and the patriotic guards, through fierce struggles with the German troops, liberated the capital of the country, Bucharest, an important part of the country's territory. Afterward, they participated on the side of the Soviet Army in the struggle for the liberation of Hungary and Czechoslovakia until the final defeat of Hitler's Germany.

The 23 August 1944 revolution opened the path for the realization of the democratic revolution, the socialist revolution, and for the construction of socialism. It has guaranteed the conditions necessary for the great revolutioary transformation. According to the party's program, drafted by the 11th congress in 1974, Romania multilaterally entered the stage of construction of socialist society, which gave a vigorous impetus to the economic and social development and has in great part contributed to raising the degree of civilization and general welfare of the people.

In the almost 40 years since the August 1944 revolution, a historically short period of time, Romania has been transformed from an agrarian country with a weak economy, characterized as eminently agricultural, into a country with a vigorous industrial and agrarian economy.

Truly historic successes were achieved in the period following the Ninth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party in 1965, which elected Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu to head the party.

An extensive long-range scientific policy has been implemented under his wise leadership. This policy is imbued with deep revolutionary spirit and great patriotism, which signifies the creative and original application of the general truths of scientific socialism to the country's specific conditions. It has been crowned with success.

The 12th party congress outlined the strategic objective of Romania's transition to a new stage of development, from a developing country to a country with a medium level of development.

The national conference of the Romanian Communist Party at the end of 1982 made a multifaceted analysis of the present state of Romania's socialist society and the manner in which the decisions of the 12th congress are being carried out, and approved important decisions and measures regarding the development of our society in future years.

Everything that is being accomplished by Romanian society contributes to a more sensitive elevation of the material and spiritual welfare of the workers and all the people, which is the supreme goal of the Romanian Communist Party's policy, the essence of the socialist society that is being constructed in Romania.

Based on the indivisible unity of domestic and foreign policy, the Romanian Communist Party, socialist Romania, is promoting in the international field an active and constructive policy of broad cooperation among all nations, of peace and security that corresponds fully to the basic interests of the working class, the peasantry, the intellectuals, and all our people.

Romania maintains diplomatic and consular relations with 137 states and economic relations with 150 countries. Our country places emphasis on its external activity in the development and strengthening of reciprocally beneficial cooperation, on friendship and solidarity with all socialist countries.

Romania diversifies and strengthens its bonds of friendship and cooperation with the developing countries, continually intensifies its participation in the Nonaligned Movement, maintains relations with developed capitalist states and with all countries, regardless of their social systems.

Romania bases its international activities on the principles of complete equality of rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs, reciprocal benefits, the nonuse of force or the threat of force, the right of all people to determine their own fate, to develop freely and independently, and acting consistently for the reaffirmation and respect of these principles in international relations.

Because of the complex evolution of international life, characterized by the unprecedented danger that the arms escalation represents, Romania's foreign policy is consistently directed toward achieving detente, disarmament, security, and peace. It consistently promotes timely and positive conclusion of the work of the Madrid meeting. It firmly supports the efforts for the elimination of underdevelopment and the construction of a new economic order.

Dear Cuban friends, during the last few decades, our countries and people, the Romanian Communist Party and the Communist Party of Cuba, have established lasting relations in close friendship and cooperation under continuous development. The positive development of the relations between the two parties, countries, and peoples has been based on the friendly official visits, the encounters and talks between the chiefs of our parties and states, Comrades Nicolae Ceausescu and Fidel Castro.

These visits and the respective meetings between our top leaders established the lasting bases for our bonds of friendship, gave new dimensions to cooperation on many plane between Romania and Cuba, and constitute a valuable contribution to strengthening peace and understanding in the world.

Expressing satisfaction with the increasing progress of Romanian-Cuba relations, we are convinced that by acting jointly, the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our parties, countries, and peoples will develop continually to the reciprocal interest of Romania and Cuba, the cause of socialism, understanding, and peace in the world.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Cuban television for the welcome opportunity to speak to you on the occasion of Romania's national holiday. I take this opportunity, dear Cuban friends and comrades, to wish you renewed and increasing success in the practical application of the decisions of the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and the construction of socialist society for the welfare and prosperity of the friendly Cuban people.

Thank you for your attention.

HOME-MADE ANTITANK MINE REPORTEDLY DEVELOPED

FL191950 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The following is a report on the home-made 8-M antitank mine, developed by our technicians and thoroughly tested during the Bastion '83 strategic exercise:

[Begin recorded interview by unidentified reporter] What is your name, comrade?

[Reyes] I am Ricardo Reyes.

[Reporter] Reyes, what are you working on in the shop?

[Reyes] [I am working] on a new Cuban explosive mixture. This is a combat explosive for use by the people.

[Reporter] How long does it take to make one of these bombs?

[Reyes] This bomb can be made in 5 minutes.

[Reporter] Are the raw materials needed available to citizens in the event of a war?

[Reyes] There is sufficient raw materials in almost every municipality and province of our country to make a great quantity of bombs, such as remote-controlled antipersonnel bombs, antitank bombs, antitank mines, and so forth.

[Reporter] How do you compare its explosive power with that of TNT, dynamite, or other explosives?

[Reyes] As far as its destructive power, this explosive is considered to have medium [normal] power. From the point of view of explosives, we compare an eight-kilogram antitank mine with an AT mine made from TNT.

[Reporter] Where do you work?

[Reyes] I am a textile mill engineer at the (Higuanabo) textile mill.

[Reporter] Has this development come about as a result of the drive to establish the Territorial Militia Troops?

[Reyes] I was appointed to attend the battalion chiefs school for the municipality of Bauta, and it was there that we found the need to develop new means of combat. That is how it began.

[Reporter] Now we will speak with Omar Gonzalez Perez, president of the people's government here in Manicaragua. He will tell us about the mine they manufactured and its effectiveness in stopping a tank, for example, in the event we are attacked by the enemy. Mr President, what have the results of using this mine in practice been?

[Gonzalez] This was the first time we tested the mine, which was manufactured entirely with the municipality's local resources. It is a very effective mine. We were able to confirm that it is capable of blowing up an enemy tank, put it out of commission. We consider the availability of the mine and of the technology to produce it locally to be of great importance for the defense of the province. Despite the fact that this municipality has no large shops or industries, by making use of small lathes and some local resources, we were able to make the mines and other combat equipment. [end recording]

VILMA ESPIN DISCUSSES ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEFENSE

FL231540 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 1045 GMT on 23 August carried a recorded interview with Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Cuban Federation of Women. Espin discusses the role of women in defense and the campaign to increase enlistments by women into the Territorial Troops Militia, MTT. She notes that the number of women who have shown an interest in joining the MTT has reached more than 1,882,000. There has been support from the party, the MTT, and other organizations in organizing the campaign.

BARBADOS

SUNDAY ADVOCATE SCORES PRESS CONTROL PROPOSAL

FL221301 Bridgetown CANA in English 1702 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 21, CANA -- The BEACON, a newspaper published by the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP), today ran into heavy fire because of its recent call for control of the press.

The independent SUNDAY ADVOCATE, in an editorial, said: "We would have thought that talk about press control would have been one of the last things the BLP party paper would be heard echoing, especially at this stage."

According to the SUNDAY ADVOCATE, in 1961 "when the then Barbados Labour Party government of an earlier generation was threatening to get tough with the local press, "the media had got the better of the confrontation.

"In the final resort, it would seem that the party was left more uncomfortable than the press was in that threatened confrontation, which came over finally more like a storm in a teacup than any issue over which one should have lost any sleep," the Sunday paper said.

In an editorial earlier this month the BEACON called for government control of the news media, adding: "Ultimate responsiblity for public information and how it is dispersed must rest with the government of the day."

But Information Minister Nigel Barrow denied that the editorial was a reflection of the thinking of most BLP members or of the government. He said the party and government were committted to maintenance of press freedom.

When it came the turn of the Democratic Labour Party (BLP) to hold power, differences with the press also surfaced, the paper said. "We well recalled that at one stage there was a threat coming from the very floor of the House of Assembly about jailing one of the local editors," it added.

"At another time it was felt that the (state-owned) Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) should concentrate on positive news reports and should eliminate the negative aspects of the news.

"Obviously, there was the feeling that negative reports did not do credit to the then government."

The paper said the BEACON editorial "cannot be easily talked away." "If someone was flying a kite, as they say, then that person chose a very bad time to do so. It is better to let people have their say, and encourage them to see things your way, than to threaten to shut them up because their talk is uncomfortable," the paper said.

GRENADA

BISHOP ASSAILS 'INSENSITIVE ARMS BUILDUP'

FL232205 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Aug 23, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop last night opened the sixth confernece of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) here with the assertion that the "insensitive arms buildup" was negating the aspirations of the dispossessed people of the world.

Charging that the greatest threat facing mankind was nuclear war, the prime minister said that of the projected 150 million dollar arms expenditure planned by the United States for Honduras, a mere 1.2 million dollars could provide scholarships over the next five years for 16 Caribbean students at the University of the West Indies. He said the 150 million dollars could also be used to build 12,500 three-bedroom housing units for the Grenadian people.

Delegates from throughout the Caribbean and the Americas are attending the five-day conference, the theme of which is: "Right of the people to real peace, independence, and economic development in the Americas and the Caribbean."

Bishop told the conference that one of the contributions which the March 13, 1979 revolution in Grenada has made to humanity was that for small island states, the path chosen by Grenada showed a viable way forward in the struggle against the domination by foreign elements and forces.

The conference has set up three commissions to look at international peace, the arms race, and outside aggression.

Says Cuban, Soviet Meddling U.S. 'Myth'

FL232230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2209 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Aug 23, CANA -- Grendada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has accused the United States of acitively seeking to encourage the "myth" that the problems of Central America stem from Cuban and Soviet interference in the region.

Mr Bishop told delegates to the sixth conference of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) last night that the problems of Central America resulted from poverty, oppression, and what he called the total failure of the capitalist system to provide meaningful solutions to the present realities of the area. The present crisis in Central America, he declared, could only be solved on the basis of "a negotiated political settlement" among all sides to the disputes in the troubled region.

In this regard, he expressed support for the peace initiatives of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Honduras -- and said that the region should be left to solve its own problems without outside interference. Mr Bishop, who has consistently accused the United States of trying to install pro-American regimes in Central America and the Caribbean, said he feld that the Contadora initiatives could provide "a just and lasting settlement to the conflict in Central America."

Prime Minister Bishop voiced Grenada support for the Government of Nicaragua in the face of what he said was increased United States aggression in Central America. Mr Bishop said the U.S. claim that Nicaragua was posing a threat to other countries in Central America was merely a pretext by Washington to arm Honduras for attacks on Nicaragua.

The AAJ has already held two meetings in Grenada. The latest is being attended by jurists from countries including Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Vincent and the Grenadines, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Cuba, the United States, El Salvador, Canada, and Grenada. During the next five days the delegates will discuss the right of the peoples to real peace, independence, and economic development in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The AAJ, which was formed about 10 years ago, supports the stuggles of people for their self-determination, economic development, and the sovereignty of states over their own wealth and national resources.

The Grenadian leader said the United States plan to set up a number of military installations in the region was a grave threat to the hemisphere. He identified some of these military installations to be created by the United States as a 150 million U.S. dollar air and naval base to be constructed on the Atlantic coast of Honduras and plans by Washington to improve the airstrips of Honduras to accommodate C-130 transport planes. The United States also plans to set up a new radar system in the Gulf of Fonseca, whose waters are shared by Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador.

"These vulgar acts of intimidation, provocation, and big stickism are a direct attack on the region's attempt to secure an atmosphere of peace, which is so necessary for development," Mr Bishop said.

Mr Bishop charged that the money being spent by the United States on these project was "a colossal waste." It could be used to provide 96,000 students from Latin America and the Caribbean with 320 properly equipped primary schools, Mr Bishop said.

JAMAICA

CONTADORA GROUP PEACE EFFORT SUPPORT REAFFIRMED

FL191603 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Aug 83 pp 1,15

[Text] The emphasis of the Cancun Declaration of the Presidents of the Contadora Group of countries in July on "the necessity to improve methods of consultation, strengthen democratic political institutions, and pursue economic and social development" has reinforced Jamaica's support for the effort of the Group in their search for peaceful settlement of the conflict in Central America.

This was told to the representatives of the Governments of the Contadora Group on Wednesday by the Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, at a meeting with them at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Kingston.

Ambassador Pedro Luis Echeverria of Venezuela; Ambassador Jaime Ramirez of Panama; Senor Humberto Gallego, Charge d'Affaires of the Colombian Embassy; and Senor Alfonso Duarte, Counsellor of the Mexican Embassy, met with Mr Shearer, the Permanent Secratry in the Ministry, Mr Frank Francis, and the Director of the Political Division in the Ministry, Mr Lloyd Barnett, of Foreign Affairs, to give the Government of Jamaica an offical update on the peace initiatives currently underway in the region.

In his opening statement on behalf of the envoys present, Senor Echeverria told Mr Shearer that the present state of Central America as a "zone of confrontation" endangers peace in the region and affects all Latin American countries and their policies. He said that the Presidents of the Latin American countries have always thought that the solution to the tensions in the region should be "a sincere and authentic Central American solution."

The Declaration of the Cancun meeting in July, he said, presented a series of alternatives which could be considered basic to the peace of the region within the context of non-interference by external groups.

The Ambassador cited the presence of Soviet ships in Central American waters and the U.S. military manoeuvers in the area as elements contributing to "a climate of pre-war anxiety."

Ambassador Echeverria referred to the last meeting of Foreign Ministers of Central America in Panama and the developments from that meeting. He informed the Deputy Prime Minister that documentation of the advances made was being prepared.

Both the Venezuelan and Colombian envoys stressed that although there was great optimism for a positive outcome, the Group had an extremely difficult task before it in view of the "worrysome and ambiguous responses" made by the countries involved.

Ambassador Ramirez of Panama emphasized that the support given by the Government of Jamaica to the Group serves to reinforce the capacity of the Group. He anticipated that the next meeting of Central American Foreign Ministers to be held next week in Panama could provide the means of carrying the Group nearer to a negotiated settlement.

Mr Alfonso Duarte of Mexico mentioned tomorrow's meeting between the Presidents of Mexico and the United States when President de la Madrid is expected to inform President Reagan of the latest work of the Contadora Group, the extent of support by other countries of the region, and to discuss further strategies in the peace effort.

In his reply, Mr Shearer re-stated Jamaica's support for the efforts of the Contadora Group. He said the Government was satisified by the Group's usefulness in the efforts to secure a solution to the Central American crisis.

In discussing the proposals of the Cancun Declaration on which the peace initiative is based, Mr Shearer drew special attention to the proposal that "it is necessary to improve the methods of popular consultations, assuring a free access of the different currents of opinion to the electoral process, and promoting the full participation of citizens in the political life of their country."

Jamaica fully supported, he told the delegation, the provision in the Cancun Declaration that "the strengthening of democratic political institutions is closely connected to the evolution and improvements brought about by economic development and social justice. In fact, these are two sides of the same process which, ultimately, are oriented toward the achievement of basic human values." Mr Shearer added that the CARICOM Group had also expressed its support through the Heads of Government of the English-speaking countries.

Ambassador Echeverria, on behalf of the representatives, thanked the Jamaican Government, through the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, for its consistent sentiments and expressed their intention of keeping the Government informed of developments in the peace-making process.

SEAGA DEPARTS ON PRIVATE VISIT TO U.S.

FL230250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2221 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 22, CANA -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga, today celebrating his 18th wedding anniversary and the seventh birthday of his youngest son, Andrew, left here early in the day for a four-day private visit to Orlando, Florida, his office announced.

But while the Seagas -- the prime minister, wife Mitzy, daughter Annabella, and sons Christopher and Andrew -- are offically on holiday, matters of state will intervene. According to Jamaica House, on Wednesday the prime minister will participate in the annual Satellite Users Convention taking place in St Louis, addressing it from Miami in a satellite video hook-up.

Seaga will speak on ways in which the information industry can interact with the Jamaican economy in the context of the trade provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the planned establishment here of a multi-media centre which it is hoped will attract the film industry.

To Visit Dominican Republic

FL201905 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 20, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga is to visit the Dominican Republic early next month for talks with President Salvador Jorge Blanco on developing bilateral trade relations and collaboration in planning programmes to commemorate the 500th anniversary in 1992 of the coming to the New World of Christopher Columbus.

Seaga made the announcement here yesterday as he launched a national committee to start local planning for the anniversary, which is being marked by Latin American nations as well as some European states, particularly the Iberian countries.

CITIZENS ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL EMIGRATION TRY

FL192000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 19, CANA -- Thirteen Jamaicans were detained by police at the Norman Manley Airport here Wednesday as they attempted to board a plane bound for the United States, fraudulently using American identifications, the GLEANER newspaper reported today.

The paper said that the group had U.S. birth certificates and other identification, reportedly sent to them by relatives in the United States.

Police have declined to say what will happen to the 13.

The U.S. Embassy here has in recent months been cracking down on racketeering in visas and other illegal means by Jamaicans of attempting to enter the USA, and the paper said it had recently informed airlines they could be heavily fined if they wittingly or unwittingly put aboard their planes passengers with false U.S. documents. It was the alertness of an airline staffer that led to the apprehension of the group, including a man said to be the leader.

Americans do not need to have passports to travel to Jamaica, but simple identification such as birth certificates or drivers' licences. Jamaicans without visas apparently have been acquiring these documents and then travelling to the U.S. as Americans.

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

REFORMATION PARTY SWEEPS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FL231656 Bridgetown CANA in English 1419 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Aug 23, CANA -- The Nevis Reformation Party (NRP), one of two forming the St Kitts-Nevis coalition government, yesterday made a clean sweep of seats in a new legislative assembly during elections in the neighbouring island, election officials reported today.

NRP candidates collected three seats yesterday, bringing their party's tally to five after opposition groups had failed to contest two seats.

Following are the results of yesterday's poll:

St Paul's Parish: Ivor Stevens (NRP) -- 390 votes, Theodore Hobson of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) -- 38. Some 429 ballots were cast, one rejected. Some 55.1 per cent of the 778 registered voters went to the polls.

St John's Parish: Levi Morton (NRP) -- 527 votes, Myrna Walwyn of the Nevis Independent Party (NIP) -- 96, Zepheriah Liburd (PDP) -- 38. Some 669 votes were cast, eight were rejected. Sixty-three per cent of the 1,048 registered voters went to the polls.

St George's Parish: Uhral Swanston (NRP) -697 votes, Frederick Smithen (PDP) -- 20 votes. Some 717 ballots were cast. Of the 1,129 voters 63.5 per cent went to the polls.

The unopposed candidates were NRP leader Simeon Daniel for St Thomas Parish, and druggist Arthur Evelyn for St James Parish.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OFFICIALS DENY LIBYAN PLANE PERMISSION TO LAND

FL240044 Bridgetown CANA in English 2342 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 23, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago has refused permission for Libyan aircraft to land at Piarco International Airport on August 29 to re-fuel on its way to leftist-ruled Nicaragua, the "Evening News" reported.

The report quoted un-named, well-placed sources as saying the government believed the plane would be taking military training equipment to the Central American state.

According to the "Evening News," the Civil Aviation Department of Piarco received a message yesterday saying the state-owned aircraft at the Jamahiriyah Air Transport would have arrived August 29 and then continued to Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, with a return refuelling stop on September 1. The "Evening News" said the Trinidad and Tobago Government immediately cabled Libya, refusing permission to land any aircraft with that type of cargo.

A spokesman for the National Security Ministry said tonight he did not know of the Libyan request.

Suspect Cargo Arms for Sandinists

PA232208 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2047 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 23 Aug (EFE) -- The National Security Ministry today announced that the Trinidad and Tobago Government denied a Libyan aircraft, en route to Nicaragua, permission to make a technical stopover on the island.

Civil aeronautics authorities received a message from Tripoli requesting permission for the aircraft to refuel at the Piarco International Airport in Port-of-Spain en route to Nicaragua on 29 August. According to the message, the aircraft would be carrying technical equipment to Nicaragua, but a ministry spokesman said that the Libyans are probably sending weapons and ammunition for the Sandinist army on that aircraft.

A Libyan aircraft transporting weapons to Nicaragua was stopped in Brazil a few months ago. The Brazilian authorities returned the aircraft and cargo to Tripoli a few weeks later.

BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE INCREASING, CUBAN DECLINING

PA211810 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1529 GMT 21 Aug 83

[By Yussuff Haniff]

[Text] Paramaribo, 21 Aug (EFE) -- The Surinamese Government plans to expand its relations with Brazil, its southern neighbor, while Cuba's presence and influence in that South American country is visibly declining.

The new Surinamese policy emerged after a visit to Brazil by a delegation from Paramaribo led by Prime Minister Errol Alibux, who is known for his moderate socialist position.

Alibux returned to Suriname with promises of Brazilian aid in the areas of agriculture and fishing, and Paramaribo officials said that the government in Brasilia also agreed to examine the possibility of buying up to 50,000 tons of Surinamese rice per year.

It has also been learned that Brazil will offer modest military aid to Suriname, even though certain diplomats do not expect this to lead to the presence of Brazilian instructors in Paramaribo or to the training of Surinamese soldiers in Brazil.

The improvement of relations became evident after Brasilia took the initiative in countering what has been described as Cuba's increasing influence in Suriname.

Government officials in Paramaribo have reported that Brazil tacitly indicated that a reduction of Cuba's presence in Suriname would help expand relations.

Although the Surinamese Government claims to want good relations with both Havana and Brasilia, it has been indicated in Paramaribo that there has been a subtle but appreciable reduction in Cuba's presence.

According to a Surinamese official, the idea is to achieve a better balance in order to adjust Suriname's domestic situation to that in the international arena. He added that it is only logical that Suriname and Brazil should want to improve their relations, owing to their geographic proximity.

Certain observers have indicated, however, that Brazil's hopes of helping Suriname must be viewed skeptically because the big southern neighbor has pressing problems of its own, such as an increasing foreign debt and a decline in exports.

According to a diplomat, Brazil's motives for approaching Suriname might be both economic and political, an effort to reduce Cuba's influence here while opening a new market for its products.

For its part, Suriname, a former Netherlands colony, needs new alternatives after losing its former metropolis economic aid last year when The Hague suspended the economic cooperation that it had maintained with Paramaribo in the wake of a wave of domestic disturbances in the young South American nation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BROADCASTERS PROTEST ANTI-CUBA PROGRAM BAN

FL230330 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- A broadcast sponsored by the Cuban exiles in which [words indistinct] the frequencies of Radio Clarin from Santo Domingo were suspended last week, Tuesday, by the Dominican Telecommunications Office, alleging that the same contained attemptatory [as heard] expressions against a foreign government.

The program, which was aired through the same frequencies used by Radio Earth, was sponsored by the Cuban organization called "Cuba Independiente y Democratica," or Independent and Democratic Cuban organization, and identified themselves as "La Voz del CID," the Voice of the CID.

The Dominican Association of Radio Broadcasters today formally protested the suspension of the programs, claiming that the government's decision was not the right one and that any claim against the programs should be taken to court and should all depend on [words indistrinct] decision. No government reaction was made public to the Dominican Broadcasters Association protest.

GUYANA

BURNHAM MEETS WITH CUBAN DELEGATION TO PNC

FL191800 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Guyanese President Forbes Burnham had a cordial and friendly meeting with the Cuban party delegation which attended the fifth biennial congress of the ruling People's National Congress. The Cuban delegation was headed by Pedro Fernandez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. Burnham and Fernandez discussed the Central American and Caribbean status quo and bilateral cooperation.